

November 1996

Greek History to Alexander the Great

5394/3548

Time: Three hours

In addition, candidates are allowed ten minutes, before the examination begins, to read the paper.

Answer Question 1 and any other THREE questions.

Each question carries an equal number of marks.

1. Comment on any TWO of the following passages:

a) ... the generals called an Assembly and then Thrasybulus made the following speech: 'This is the piece of advice I want to give to the men of the city: know yourselves. And you will be best able to do so if you try to consider what right you have to be so arrogant as to attempt to make us your subjects. Are you morally better? They why is it that the common people, though poorer than you are, never did you any harm for the sake of money, whereas you, who are richer than all of them, have committed many disgraceful crimes for the sake of your own profit?' Xenophon, *A History of My Times*, ii.4.40

b) Agesilaos himself, however, had made up his mind to go and offer sacrifice at Aulis, at the very spot where Agamemnon had sacrificed when he sailed to Troy. However when he arrived there the *boiotarchs* got to hear of his plan to offer sacrifice and sent out some cavalry to order him to stop. Xenophon, *A History of My Times*, iii.4.3-4

c) Leontiades (*the Theban oligarchic leader*) set out for Sparta. Here he found that the *ephors* and most of the citizens were displeased with Phoibidas because he had carried out this operation without authorisation from the state ... (*but*) the Spartans decided that since the Acropolis (*that is, the Cadmeia of Thebes*) had been seized, they would maintain a garrison there and that they would put Ismenias (*the Theban democratic leader*) on trial.

Xenophon, *A History of My Times*, v.2.35

d) It was with this sort of end in mind that the Arcadians joined together in a city (Megalopolis), Citalus and Epaminondas of Thebes might fairly be called the founder of their *polis*; for it was he who encouraged the Arcadians to join together, and sent 1,000 picked Thebans and Pammenes to defend them, in case the Spartans attempted to prevent the foundation. Pausanias, viii.27.2

e) The armies deployed at dawn (*at Chaironeia*) and the king stationed his son Alexander, young in age but outstanding for his bravery and swiftness of action, on one wing, placing with him his best commanders, while he himself at the head of an elite corps exercised the command over the other... More than 1,000 Athenians fell in the battle and no less than 2,000 were captured. Likewise many of the Boiotians were killed....

Diodorus, xvi.86.1-5

f) From this point he began to adapt his own style of living more closely to that of the country and tried to reconcile Asiatic and Macedonian customs.

Plutarch, *Life of Alexander*, 9

2. What in your view explains the hatred felt, according to the author of *Hellenica Oxyrhincia*, by other Greeks towards the Spartans and their empire at the time of the outbreak of the Corinthian War.

3. The King's Peace of 386 B.C. guaranteed autonomy to the mainland cities of Greece and to most of the island cities. Why did Sparta, Athens and Thebes sign it?

4. The Spartan failure at the battle of Leuctra in 371 B.C. surprised contemporaries. Explain why, with the help of hindsight, it was entirely predictable.

5. EITHER

a) Why did the Second Athenian Confederacy ultimately fail? (Consider the immediate causes but also the underlying weaknesses of the arrangements).

OR

b) Historians sometimes talk of a crisis in the fourth century Greek *polis*. Was there one, and if so what were the symptoms? (You may concentrate on one or two aspects of crisis or briefly discuss a larger number).

6. Was Demosthenes fatally unrealistic in attempting to oppose Philip? What could or should he have done instead?

7. Did Philip succeed because of his own strengths or because of his enemies' weaknesses?

8. What made the Macedonian army under Alexander almost invincible against **BOTH** Greeks **AND** Persians?

9. 'Wars and horrors are your savage Joy' says Agamemnon of Achilles in Pope's translation of the *Iliad*. Modern historians have described Alexander in similar terms. Either justify their view in the light of the evidence, or else justify some modification of their view.

10. What in your view are the strengths and weaknesses of **EITHER** Xenophon **OR** Arrian as an historian?

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