

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF B.A.  
July 1992

Greek History: Archaic & Classical

2304/5818

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) But later when the people by deletions and additions perverted and distorted the motions, the kings Polydoros and Theopompus added the following rhetra: But if the people speaks crooked, the elders and the rulers are to be rejecters. That is, they should not ratify the decision but dismiss it outright, and dissolve the meeting on the grounds that it was perverting and changing the motion contrary to what was best.

Plutarch, Life of Lycurgus, 6

b) Their fame shall live for ever on earth,  
dearest Harmodius and Aristogeiton,  
because they killed the tyrant  
and gave the Athenians equal order (isonomia)

(The last line might be better translated 'made Athens a land of equal rights') Page, no. 895

c) The rest of the Athenians in their entirety and those aliens who have reached young manhood shall embark on the two hundred ships that have been prepared and they shall repulse the Barbarian for the sake of liberty, both their own and that of the other Hellenes...When the ships are filled they are to bring aid to Artemisium in Euboea with a hundred of them, and with a hundred of them they are to lie at anchor around Salamis and the rest of Attica and defend the land.

Greek Historical Inscriptions no. 23

d) Two years after the victory at Marathon, with the demos now growing in self-assurance, the Athenians made use of the ostracism law, which had been carried because of the suspicion of those in powerful positions, in that Peisistratus, a demagogue and a general, had set himself up as a tyrant. The first man to be ostracised was his kinsman, Hipparchus

? Aristotle, Athenian Constitution 22

e) The Athenians listened to his (Pericles') advice and began to carry in their wives and children from the country, and all their household furniture, even to the woodwork of their houses... But they found it hard to move, as most of them had always been used to life in the country... Deep was their trouble and discontent at abandoning houses and sanctuaries which had belonged to their fathers ever since the ancient state of affairs, and at having to change their habits of life and to bid farewell to what each regarded as nothing less than his native city. When they arrived at Athens few had houses of their own

to go to, or could find asylum with friends or relatives.  
Thucydides 2.14-17

f) 'The Athens that I (Alcibiades is the speaker) love is not the one which is wronging me now, but the one in which I used to have secure enjoyment of my rights as a citizen. The country that I am attacking does not seem to me to be mine any longer; it is rather that I am trying to recover a country that has ceased to be mine...And so, Spartans, I think that you should not hesitate to make use of my services in any kind of danger or hardship.'

Thucydides 6.92

2. What in your view were the more important results of the colonising movement of the eighth and seventh centuries B.C.

3. Solon was revered as the founder of Athenian democracy. Could it not be said rather that his constitution was oligarchic?

4. Explain the common interests which enabled Athens and Sparta to co-operate in the lead up to the second Persian invasion in 480 B.C.

Explain also the differences which made it hard for them to co-operate.

5. Thucydides praised the foresight of Themistocles. Do you agree that the events of his life illustrate both long-term and short-term foresight?

6. 'We have done nothing extraordinary, nothing contrary to human nature in accepting an empire when it was offered to us and then in refusing to give it up. Three very powerful motives prevent us from doing so - fear, self-interest and honour'

Explain why the Athenians vigorously maintained their empire in spite of the danger, cost and unpopularity it brought them?

7. The period of Pericles was the period of the so-called 'radical democracy'. How did the Periclean democracy differ from the democracy which triumphed over the Persians?

8. EITHER

a) Bearing in mind the description of the Spartan temperament given by the Corinthians at the Assembly of the Peloponnesian League described by Thucydides in Book I, would you say that Brasidas was an untypical Spartiate? Illustrate your answer from what is known of the events of his life.

OR

b) Bearing in mind the description of the Athenian temperament given by the Corinthians at the Assembly of the Peloponnesian League described by Thucydides in Book I, would you say that Nicias was an untypical Athenian? Illustrate your answer from what is known of the events of his life.

9. What led up to and precipitated the oligarchic revolution of 411?

10. Use any episode in Thucydides (the Mytilenean incident, the Corcyran revolution, the Melian dialogue) to illustrate his attitude towards the exercise of power.

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