

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

June 1994

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) (After Solon) the general domestic malaise, however, continued. Some saw the origin and explanation of this in the cancellation of the debts, a measure which meant that they were now poor. Others were dissatisfied with the constitution and how greatly it had changed. Others still were motivated by personal rivalries. There were three factions. The first was that of the Shore, led by Megacles, the son of Alcmaeon; their aim seemed to be a middle-of-the-road constitution. The second was that of the Plain; what they wanted was oligarchy, and their leader was Lycurgus. The third was that of the Uplands. with Pisistratus at its head - the leader most inclined, so it seemed, towards the demos.

Aristotle, Ath. Pol. 13.3-4

b) When he had got back to Asia ... Hippias adopted every expedient he could think of, slandering the Athenians to Artaphernes and doing everything possible to bring Athens into subjection to himself and Darius. But the Athenians learnt that Hippias was engaged on this course of action and sent to Sardis, urging the Persians not to heed exiles from Athens. But Artaphernes ordered them to take Hippias back, if they wished to remain unscathed. Now the Athenians refused to accept the instructions which their envoys brought back and, in doing so, they had agreed on open hostility with the Persians.

Herodotus V.961-2

c) It was not until shortly before the Persian War and after the death of Darius.....that triremes appeared in large numbers ... for the fleets which had been built up by the Aiginetans and the Athenians and others were small, and comprised for the most part pentekonters or fifty-oared ships. It was at this late stage that Themistocles persuaded the Athenians when they were at war with the Aiginetans and at the same time expecting an invasion of the Persians, to build the ships with which they actually fought the sea battle (at Salamis).

Thucydides 1.14.2-3

d) For about seventeen years after the Persian Wars the constitution remained the same, under the supervision of the Areopagus. Little by little, however, it was declining; and as the masses grew in strength, Ephialtes, ... a man reckoned to be incorruptible and upright in his attitude to the constitution, became champion of the demos and attacked the Areopagus.

Aristotle, Ath.Pol.25.1

e) (From a speech of King Archidamus in 432 reported by Thucydides). 'anyone examining the matter sensibly would conclude that this war which you are now discussing is not likely to be a trifling one. When, you see, our opponents are (other) Peloponnesians and our neighbours, our strength is of the same sort as theirs and we can speedily attack them at every point. But to fight the Athenians means taking on men whose territory is far away, who besides have great experience of the sea and are well equipped in all other respects, with wealth both private and public, ships, horses, arms, and a population larger than that of any other place in the Greek world, and who moreover possess many allies who pay them tribute. How can we think nothing of starting a war against these men?'
Thucydides 1.80.2-3

f) Nicias could see that as each day passed both the enemy's strength and his own perplexity were increasing, so he sent a personal message to Athens. He had often done this before, to report on each development as it was happening, but the urgency of his despatch on this occasion reflected how gravely he viewed the situation: his opinion was that unless, without delay, the expedition was either recalled or else massively reinforced, all would be lost.
Thucydides, 7.8.1

2. What in your view were the three or four most important changes or innovations that occurred in the Greek world from c.750 to c.650 B.C.? Explain their importance.

3. What can the lyric poets of the archaic age contribute to our knowledge of the period? (e.g. some of the following, - Archilochus, Tyrtaeus, Alcman, Alcaeus, Sappho, Theognis, Solon).

4. To what extent was the Spartan way of life determined by their relationship with the original inhabitants of Laconia and Messenia?

5. Did Cleisthenes' constitution for Athens in reality provide isonomia and isegoria (equality in law and freedom to speak) ?

6. In 449 B.C. occurred the so-called 'Peace of Callias'. What, if anything, did this mean for the Delian Alliance?

7. '...for the whole period of peacetime when he (Pericles) presided over the city, his moderate policies kept it safe; it was indeed under him that Athens was at her greatest; and when the war came it was clear that here again he was correctly estimating in advance the city's strength'. In your view was Athens benefited or harmed as a result of Pericles' policies both before and including the beginning of the Peloponnesian War?

8. Why was the Greek world astonished a) when in 425 B.C. 120 Spartiates were captured on Sphacteria and b) when in 424 B.C. Brasidas led an expedition to the north? Explain the importance of these episodes in the Peloponnesian War.

9. Thucydides described the so-called demagogues disapprovingly. Use examples from the history of the fifth century to explain what tendency he was criticising in the democratic government of Athens.

10 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Thucydides as historian of the Peloponnesian War.
