

June 1996

# 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) *Those judged champions awaited the Trojans and godly Hector, locking spear fast to spear, buckler to close-packed buckler: shield crowded on shield, helmet on helmet, man on man. The horse-hair crests on their shining helmet-ridges touched as they nodded, so close they stood to one another.*

**Homer, *Iliad*, 16.215-7**

*to fall into action on the paunch, to hurl belly on belly and thighs on thighs.*

**Archilochus, *Fragment* 119**

b) *But Solon had not yielded to either side; and although he could have set himself up as a tyrant, by joining the faction of his choosing, he preferred to incur the hostility of both sides by laying down the laws best designed to save his country. That this was his policy is universally agreed, and he himself makes the following observations about it in his poems. 'To the demos I gave privilege enough, neither detracting from their status nor enhancing it. Those who had power and were admirable in their possessions I took care, equally, not to injure. I stood firm, protecting both sides with the enveloping strength of my shield, and did not allow either to gain an unjust victory ...' He also speaks of the cancellation of the debts, and of the men freed from their former slavery by his shaking off of burdens (seisachtheia). 'Which of the aims for which I brought the demos together did I abandon unaccomplished? Let my witness to this, before Time's tribunal, be the good black earth, great mother of the Olympian gods: I took up the markers (horoi) which were fixed on her everywhere, and now she is no more a slave but free.*

**?Aristotle, *Athenian Constitution* 11-12**

c) *After (Kleisthenes' reforms) the state became much more inclined towards the demos than it had been under Solon - and in any case the laws of Solon had been forgotten under the tyranny, through not being used; so with the aim of pleasing the masses Kleisthenes laid down other, new ones. These included the law about ostracism ... And when two years had passed after the victory at Marathon, and the demos was already more confident, then it was that they first used the law concerning ostracism.*

**?Aristotle, *Athenian Constitution* 22-1**

d) *After Themistokles had spoken, the Corinthian Adeimantos weighed into him once more, bidding a man without a country remain silent and urging Eurybiades not to allow a man without a polis to put a question to the vote; he added that if Themistokles could produce a polis then he could offer advice. He took this line of course because Athens had fallen and was in enemy hands. In reply Themistokles abused both him and the Corinthians, and made it clear that he and his fellow-countrymen possessed both a polis and a land more substantial than theirs, as long as they manned 200 ships: for none of the Greeks would be able to resist them if they attacked.*

## **Herodotus, 8.61**

e) *Some time later, it came about that the Thasians rebelled from the Athenians, being at loggerheads over the market settlements on the coast of Thrace opposite, which they owned and over the mine which they worked. And the Athenians sailed to Thasos with their fleet, won a sea-battle and landed, while at about the same time they sent 10,000 settlers drawn from themselves and their allies to the Styrmon to settle the place then called Ennea Hodoi, but now Amphipolis.*

## **Thucydides, 1.100**

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 dispatch 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. He was afraid, however, that the messengers might not report the facts as they really were - either through incompetence in speaking, or even forgetfulness. or out of a wish to please the crowd in what they said. He therefore wrote a letter, in the belief that this would be the best way to tell the Athenians what he thought, unobscured by any messenger's report, and to have them make up their minds on the basis of the truth. So his picked men set off, with the letter and the necessary verbal instructions, while he himself turned his attention to the army, his objective now being more that of defence than of voluntarily running risks.*

## **Thucydides, 7.8**

2. Discuss how the colonising movement of the 8th-6th centuries B.C. changed (you might want to say benefited) the Greek way of life back home.

3. Use Herodotus and the surviving fragments of lyric poetry to illustrate and discuss the conditions in the archaic world which (in your view) contributed to the rise of tyranny.

4. Briefly outline what you think are the significant events of the career of Cleomenes (e.g. his accession to the kingship, his attitude to the Persians, his invasions of Athens, his dealings with Argos, and his eventual death) and explain what they can tell us of the Spartan way of life.

5. When Herodotus was writing history the Ionians already had a reputation for being cowardly. Use the events of the Ionian revolt of 499 B.C. to consider whether the reputation was deserved, or were there other reasons for their defeat?

6. Contrast the organisation of the Delian league in 477 (when Pausanias was not chosen to head it) with that of the Peloponnesian League.

7. *Periclean Athens ...?* Pericles has virtually given his name to a particular era of Athenian history. What do you think was the tendency of his political beliefs?

8. The Archidamian War began as a battle of the elephant and the whale, with the opponents unable to meet. How was the situation finally resolved?

9. In 413 B.C. after the defeat of the Sicilian expedition, the Athenians should have been easily defeated. Why did it take another nine years?

10. From your reading of EITHER Herodotus OR Thucydides, what do you think has been his main contribution to the historian's craft?