

# LATER ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY II/III

## 1998 EXAM PAPER

*Time allotted: Two hours*

Three questions must be answered; two from Section A, and one from Section B

### SECTION A:

1. Late Roman architecture, especially of the third and fourth centuries, has been seen as largely inept or careless. To what extent is this justified by the evidence, and what are the possible explanations for it?
2. Using examples, discuss and compare the major developments of the late second and third centuries A.D. in *either*
  - a) sculpture and architecture *or*
  - b) mosaics and painting
3. Compare the arches of Septimius Severus and of Constantine at Rome. What are the major differences and similarities in the use and subject matter of their reliefs?
4. Using examples, discuss the survival of pagan motifs and styles in fourth century private art (include at least three of the following media in your discussion: **mosaics, metalware, ivories, textiles or sarcophagi**).
5. Discuss the archaeological evidence for the extent and nature of late Roman trade in the Mediterranean and Near East.

### SECTION B:

6a). Choose any *three* of the following cities and discuss the chief characteristics of their layout and architectural styles.

*Augst                  Trier                  Alexandria                  Baalbek                  Palmyra                  Jerash*

*or*

b) To what extent do the arts of Doura-Europos/Palmyra and of Gaul share common "Roman" characteristics, and if so, what are they?

7. "...Frequently, though, a culture speaks not of what really exists but of imaginary solutions to its real contradictions... In late antiquity everything changes. Rhetoric turns dark and expressionistic, and the style of politics becomes authoritarian and sublime...For a long time, historians, misled by this, believed that the population of the Empire, urban life, production, the monetary economy, and the authority of the government all suffered a serious decline. Such is the power of style to deceive." (P. Veyne)

What, if any, are the archaeological evidences in support of Veyne's hypothesis, and how valid are they?