

November 1997

The Writer in Greek and Roman Society

1677/2138

Time: Three hours

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

Candidates should answer FOUR of the five questions.

EITHER

- a) 'The almost exclusive purpose of the Greek lyric poets seems to have been to express their sexual desires.'
Is this fair comment? Use the work of three or four poets to illustrate your answer.

OR

- b) The theme of the *Symposium* is supposed to be the praise of love. Does it read more like the praise of Socrates?
c) How effective is Apollonius' presentation of the romance between Jason and Medea? Do you think it contributes to, or detracts from, the status of *The Voyage of the Argo* as an epic poem?

EITHER

- a) 'Do the letters of Cicero suggest that he was a good politician, and, in particular, that he could win friends and conciliate enemies?

OR

- b) Does the *Second Philippic* seem to achieve a balance between self-defence and attack?

3. **EITHER**

- a) 'What picture of Lesbia emerges from Catullus' poetry? Is she a combination of goddess and whore?

OR

- b) 'All social standing and position were available only through the service of the republic'. (Earl).
How did the lifestyle of the Latin love poets contravene traditional Roman attitudes? Did they attempt to justify their pre-occupation with personal affairs?

4. **EITHER**

- a) 'Much of the *Aeneid* is concerned with furor, the madness of both anger and love which can take people over and drive them to destruction'. Discuss.

OR

- b) To what extent do you think Virgil intended the *Aeneid* to be a criticism of Augustus and his regime?

5. **EITHER**

- a) 'Juvenal's main theme is decadence'. It is a theme which he not only describes but diagnoses. Its root cause is insincerity'. (J.H. Higginbotham).
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

OR

- b) 'Damaging, unsatisfied, lethal curiosity about the unknown runs through *The Golden Ass*' (M. Grant)
In what ways and to whom is curiosity in the novel damaging or unsatisfied or lethal?