

**Victorian Certificate of Education  
2014**

# **CLASSICAL STUDIES**

## **Written examination**

**Friday 7 November 2014**

**Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)**

**Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)**

### **QUESTION BOOK**

#### **Structure of book**

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A – Individual study	8	2	40
B – Comparative study	7	1	40
			Total 80

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

#### **Materials supplied**

- Question book of 11 pages.
- One or more answer books.

#### **Instructions**

- Write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover(s) of the answer book(s).
- All written responses must be in English.

#### **At the end of the examination**

- Place all other used answer books inside the front cover of the first answer book.
- You may keep this question book.

**Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.**

**SECTION A – Individual study****Instructions for Section A**

There are eight questions in Section A. Answer only **two** of these. Each question has three parts.

Clearly number your answers in the answer book(s) provided.

The mark allocation for each question provides a guide in determining the length of your response.

All questions in Section A are worth 20 marks.

**Question 1****Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 3**

translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin Classics, 1998

And there they were ... That man must be a king!"

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full extract when this examination is published on the VCAA website.

Instead, the opening and closing words of the extract have been provided.

- a. What has caused the old men to gather above the city gates? How does the poet use language to depict these men in the first 10 lines? 5 marks
- b. What is notable about the old men's attitude to Helen? Is Priam's attitude any different? Justify your response. 5 marks
- c. Discuss the major ideas in the extract. Where and how are they developed in other parts of the poem prescribed for study this year? 10 marks

**Question 2****Sophocles, *Antigone***from *The Three Theban Plays*, translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin Classics, 1984

Of course it's not for you ... the rowing-benches under.

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full extract when this examination is published on the VCAA website.

Instead, the opening and closing words of the extract have been provided.

- a. What circumstances have caused Haemon to address Creon in this way? 5 marks
- b. How does Creon respond to this speech? 5 marks
- c. Discuss the ideas that are explored in this extract and the techniques that are used to present them. 10 marks

**Question 3****Aristophanes, *The Birds***

from *The Birds and Other Plays*, translated by David Barrett and Alan H Sommerstein,  
Penguin Classics, 2003

CHORUS:

Though man is a master ...

EUELPIDES: ... holes in his sacred oaks.

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Instead, the opening and closing words of the extract have been provided.

- a. What circumstances have led to this exchange? 5 marks
- b. What contribution does the Chorus (including its leader) make to this extract? 5 marks
- c. Discuss the ideas that are explored in this extract and the techniques that are used to present them. 10 marks

**Question 4****Greek freestanding sculpture**

Photograph: Glyptothek Munich

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this material is not supplied.

Photograph: Olympia Museum/Hirmer Verlag

Source: J Boardman, *Greek Sculpture: The Late Classical Period*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1995

- a. Whom do these statues portray? Who sculpted them? Is there a connection between the sculptors? 5 marks
- b. What do we know about the sociohistorical context of these works? 5 marks
- c. Discuss how each statue reflects the artistic period during which it was created. 10 marks

**Question 5****Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 2**

translated by David West, Penguin Classics, 2003 (revised edition)

'You must escape ... to die in arms.

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full extract when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the extract have been provided.

- a. Who is the speaker at the start of this passage? What has happened to him and why does he address Aeneas at this moment? 5 marks
- b. Explain the symbolism of the simile. 5 marks
- c. Discuss the significance of this extract to *The Aeneid*, Book 2. 10 marks

**Question 6****Caesar, *The Conquest of Gaul*, Books 4 and 5**

translated by SA Handford and revised by Jane F Gardner, Penguin Classics, 1982

Sabinus was so much alarmed ... told him what had happened.

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full extract when this examination is published on the VCAA website.

Instead, the opening and closing words of the extract have been provided.

- a. Explain the circumstances of the battle. 5 marks
- b. Explain the relationship between the extract and its sociohistorical context. 5 marks
- c. What qualities of the Romans and the Gauls does Caesar highlight in the extract? 10 marks



**Question 7****Ovid, *Metamorphoses***

translated by Mary M Innes, Penguin Classics, 1955

Narcissus had played with her affections ... if you can.

Due to copyright restrictions, the VCAA is unable to reproduce the full extract when this examination is published on the VCAA website. Instead, the opening and closing words of the extract have been provided.

- a. With whose affections had Narcissus played and what happened to this person as a result? Why and how had she already been punished by the goddess Juno? 5 marks
- b. What happens to Narcissus at the pool? How does the poet use simile and metaphor to enhance his description of the event? 5 marks
- c. Discuss the main ideas in the extract. Explain how they are developed in the rest of the story. 10 marks

**Question 8****Triumphal arches**

- a. What events are commemorated by the Arch of Constantine? Explain the significance of these events. What is depicted in the frieze under the roundels? 5 marks
- b. Describe the religious features of the arch. What do these features reveal about the sociohistorical context of the arch? 5 marks
- c. How does the Arch of Constantine re-use works from previous eras? Discuss why this might be so. 10 marks

**SECTION B – Comparative study****Instructions for Section B**

Answer only **one** question in this section. All questions in Section B are worth 40 marks.

Before responding to this section, read the assessment criteria below.

Your essay will be assessed on all four of these criteria.

**Assessment criteria**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Knowledge of classical works and their relation to their sociohistorical contexts                | 10 marks |
| 2. Analysis of ideas and techniques in classical works  | 10 marks |
| 3. Analysis of similarities and differences between ideas and between techniques in classical works | 10 marks |
| 4. Synthesis of a point of view supported by relevant evidence                                      | 10 marks |

**Question 1**

**Herodotus, *The Histories* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War***

‘Herodotus merely describes the past; Thucydides presents an argument to the reader.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**Question 2**

**Aeschylus, *The Eumenides* and Plato, *The Apology***

‘Plato, unlike Aeschylus, has no faith in his fellow Athenians.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**Question 3**

**Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book 19 and Euripides, *The Trojan Women***

‘Homer and Euripides show us that women should be loyal to their husbands.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**Question 4**

**Cicero, *First and Second Catilinarians* and Sallust, *Catiline’s War***

‘Cicero and Sallust emphasise the strengths and the weaknesses of the Roman republic.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**Question 5**

**Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome***

‘Powerful women are dangerous to Roman society.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**Question 6**

**Juvenal, *Satires* 1, 6 and 10, and Petronius, *Dinner with Trimalchio***

‘Juvenal and Petronius resent the influence of freedmen, foreigners and slaves on Roman society.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**Question 7**

**Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 23 and Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 5**

‘Competition serves the needs of the living and the dead.’

Discuss with reference to both works studied.

**END OF QUESTION BOOK**