

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH
PROCESSING LABEL HERE

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Write your **student number** in the boxes above.

Letter

Classical Studies

Question and Answer Book

VCE Examination – Wednesday 5 November 2025

- Reading time is **15 minutes**: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm
- Writing time is **2 hours**: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm

Approved materials

- An English and/or bilingual printed dictionary

Materials supplied

- Question and Answer Book of 24 pages
- Stimulus Book for Section A

Instructions

- Use the additional space at the end of this book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

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

Contents	pages
Section A – Classical expressions (2 of 4 questions, 40 marks)	3–11
Section B – Classical perspectives (1 of 8 questions, 40 marks)	12–17
Assessment criteria for Section B	22

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Section A – Classical expressions

Instructions

- Answer **one** epic tradition question and **one** material culture question.
 - For the epic tradition, choose **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2. Answer all parts a–d.
 - For material culture, choose **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4. Answer all parts a–d.
 - Write your responses in English.
-

The epic tradition

pages

Question 1 – The epic tradition: Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 22 _____ 4–5

OR

Question 2 – The epic tradition: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 12 _____ 6–7

Material culture

Question 3 – Material culture: The Parthenon _____ 8–9

OR

Question 4 – Material culture: The Colosseum _____ 10–11

Question 1 (20 marks)

The epic tradition: Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 22

Refer to pages 2–3 in the Stimulus Book when responding to this question.

- a. Outline the events that take place immediately after this extract. 2 marks

- b. Describe how Achilles is depicted in this extract. 4 marks

- c. Explain the techniques used by Homer to create pathos in this extract. 4 marks

Do not write in this area.

Question 2 (20 marks)

The epic tradition: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 12

Refer to page 4 in the Stimulus Book when responding to this question.

- a. Outline the events that take place immediately before this extract. 2 marks

- b. Describe how Turnus is depicted in this extract. 4 marks

- c. Explain the techniques used by Virgil to create tension in this extract. 4 marks

Do not write in this area.

Section B – Classical perspectives

Instructions

- Write an essay on **one** of the following eight questions in the space provided on pages 14–17.
 - Questions are based on pairs of works studied. You must apply knowledge of the classical concern that you studied.
 - Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on page 22.
 - Write your response in English.
-

Question 1 (40 marks)

Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* and Plato, *Apology*

‘Prioritising principles comes at great personal cost to the individual.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR

Question 2 (40 marks)

Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* and Plato, *Apology*

‘Breaking the rules can never be justified.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR

Question 3 (40 marks)

Euripides, *The Bacchae* and Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

‘Change is inevitable, but identities are fixed.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR

Question 4 (40 marks)

Euripides, *The Bacchae* and Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

‘Males act only for their own benefit.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR

Question 5 (40 marks)**Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War***

'In war, there is always more lost than gained.'

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR**Question 6** (40 marks)**Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* and Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War***

'Strong leadership is of the greatest importance.'

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR**Question 7** (40 marks)**Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome***

'Ancient authors presented Rome as entirely corrupt.'

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

OR**Question 8** (40 marks)**Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome***

'Hierarchy must be preserved in ancient Rome.'

Evaluate this statement using evidence from the works studied this year.

Assessment criteria for Section B

The essay will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge of the two classical works, and their relationships to their socio-historical contexts and the classical concern
- analysis of key ideas and the features and techniques used to explore these ideas in the two classical works
- construction of a comparative argument in response to a topic, with a focus on the comparison of key ideas and the features and techniques used to explore these ideas
- use of relevant evidence

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Classical Studies

Stimulus Book

VCE Examination – Wednesday 5 November 2025

Contents	pages
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Material culture: The Parthenon	5
Material culture: The Colosseum	6

You may keep this Stimulus Book.

Classical expressions – The epic tradition

This stimulus relates to Question 1.

Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 22

Translated by Robert Fagles with an introduction and notes by Bernard Knox, Penguin Classics, 1998

Past these they raced, one escaping, one in pursuit

[...]

endless as in a dream . . .

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

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Classical expressions – The epic tradition

This stimulus relates to Question 2.

Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 12

Translated and with an introduction by David West, Penguin Classics, 2003 (revised edition)

As he faltered the deadly spear of Aeneas flashed. His eyes

[...]

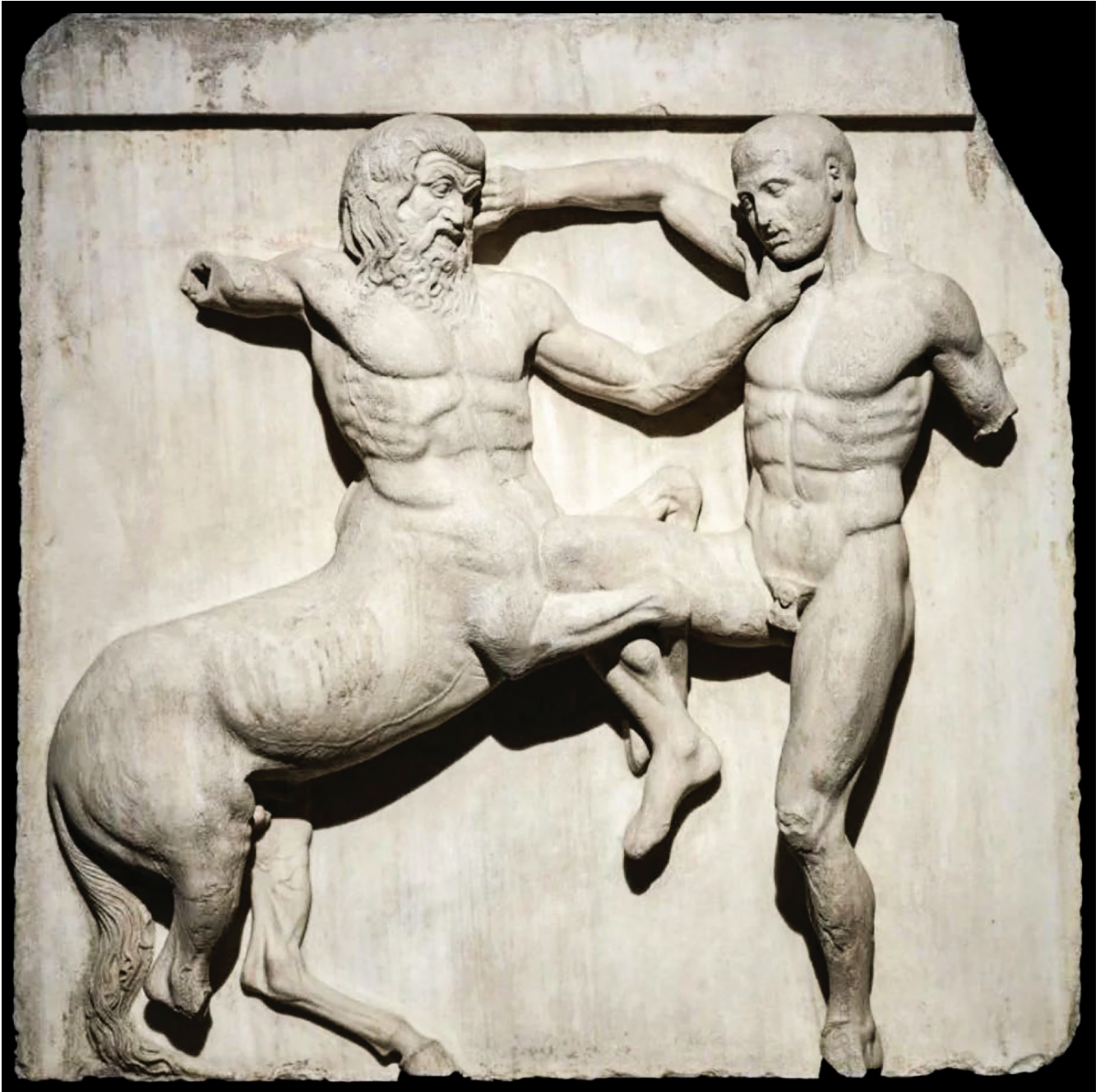
left him with a groan, fleeing in anger down to the shades.

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

Classical expressions – Material culture

This stimulus relates to Question 3.

The Parthenon



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Classical expressions – Material culture

This stimulus relates to Question 4.

The Colosseum

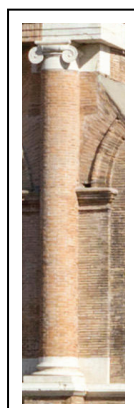


Source: IanDagnall Computing/Alamy Stock Photo

A



B



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