



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Monday 12 October 2020 – Morning**

**A Level Ancient History**

**H407/12 Athens and the Greek World**

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **four** questions in total:  
Section A: Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.  
Section B: Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **98**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document has **4** pages.

**ADVICE**

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

**Section A: Relations between Greek states and  
between Greek and non-Greek states, 492–404 BC**

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2 **and** then question 3.

Answer **either** question 1 **or** question 2.

- 1\* 'The change in relationship between Sparta and Corinth after 446 BC led to the Spartans declaring war on Athens in 432 BC.' To what extent do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

- 2\* 'After the Peace of Nicias (421 BC), Alcibiades could have won the war for Athens, but in the end caused her to lose it.' To what extent do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

Answer question 3.

- 3 Read the interpretation below.

...Greek cities collaborated in the war effort against Persia to secure success, but Greek unity is largely a myth. In addition to Athens and the Peloponnesian League the number of mainland Greek cities who joined the struggle on the Greek side was small, their combined forces practically insignificant. What Herodotus' account of the war reveals is how slight and how temporary a concession was made in the in-fighting of Greek cities. Even those cities which fought together rapidly turned to claiming of one another that they had tried to desert, or to casting aspersions on the motives which led others to fight. 5

R. Osborne, *Greece in the Making, 1200–479 BC*

How convincing do you find R. Osborne's interpretation of the contribution of Greek unity to the victory over the Persians in 480–479 BC?

You must use your knowledge of the historical period and the ancient sources you have studied to analyse and evaluate R. Osborne's interpretation. **[20]**

### Section B: The Culture and Politics of Athens, c.460–c.399 BC

Answer question 4 **and** then **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

Answer question 4.

4 Read the passage below.

So the buildings arose, as imposing in their sheer size as they were inimitable in the grace of their outlines, since the artists strove to excel themselves in the beauty of their workmanship. And yet the most wonderful thing about them was the speed with which they were completed. Each of them, men supposed, would take many generations to build, but in fact the entire project was carried through in the high summer of one man's administration. On the other hand we are told that when Zeuxis the painter once heard Agatharchus boasting about how swiftly and easily he painted his figures, his retort was, 'Mine take, and last, a long time.' Certainly mere dexterity and speed of execution seldom give a lasting value to a work of art or bestow a delicate beauty upon it. It is the time laid out in laborious creation which repays us later through the enduring strength it confers. It is this, above all, which makes Pericles' works an object of wonder to us – the fact that they were created in so short a span, and yet for all time. Each one possessed a beauty which seemed venerable the moment it was born, and at the same time a youthful vigour which makes them appear to this day as if they were newly built. A bloom of eternal freshness hovers over these works of his and preserves them from the touch of time, as if some unfading spirit of youth, some ageless vitality had been breathed into them.

Plutarch, *Pericles*, 13

How useful is this passage for our understanding of the significance of the buildings of this period as propaganda for the Athenians? **[12]**

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

5\* To what extent could the Athenian people control its leaders?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[36]**

6\* 'The function of Athenian dramatic festivals was to provide moral and political guidance rather than to entertain.'

To what extent do you agree with this assessment of Athenian dramatic festivals?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[36]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**



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