

Wednesday 16 May 2012 – Morning

GCSE ANCIENT HISTORY

A031 The Greeks at war

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:

None

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



Candidate
forename

Candidate
surname

Centre number

Candidate number

MODIFIED LANGUAGE

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- This paper has **two** options:
Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC, starting on page 3.
Option 2: Alexander the Great, 356–323 BC, starting on page 17.
- Answer questions from **one** option only.
- Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **80**.
- Marks are awarded in Section B for the quality of written communication of your answer.
- This document consists of **32** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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3

Answer questions from **either** Option 1 **or** Option 2.

Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC

Section A

Answer **all** the questions in section A.

- 1 Briefly outline **two** reasons why the Greeks chose to fight at Thermopylae.

..... [5]

Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC

- 2 Read Passage 1A from Herodotus, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 1A

When the Eretrians learned that the Persian forces were sailing towards them, they asked the Athenians to help them. The Athenians did not refuse and sent to assist them the four thousand men settled by them on the territory of the richer citizens of Chalcis. Amongst the Eretrians, who had sent for the Athenians, however there was no single plan. There were two courses of action under consideration: some planned to leave the city and flee to the hills of Euboea, while others, looking out for their own gain from the Persians, were preparing to surrender the city. Aischines, the son of Nothos, when he learned how things stood, informed those of the Athenians who had come what was happening, and asked them to return to their own country to avoid disaster.

Herodotus, *The Histories* 6.100

- (a) What does Passage 1A tell us about how the Eretrians reacted to the approach of the Persian forces?

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Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC

- (b)** With reference to Passage 1A, explain how the Persians threatened the Eretrians.

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- (c)** In your opinion, how accurate is Herodotus' account of the events described in Passage 1A?

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- ### Passage 1B

Herodotus, *The Histories* 7.39

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Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC

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‘You wicked man, do you dare to mention your son, when I am leading this expedition against Greece myself, bringing with me my children and brothers and relatives and friends; you are my slave and should follow with your entire household, including your wife. ... When you did good things for me and promised to do still more, you cannot boast that you outdid me in generosity; now when you have made this shameless request, you will get less than you deserve in punishment. Your hospitality to me saves you and four of your sons; but you will be punished by the death of the eldest, who is the most important to you.’ After he had given this response, Xerxes at once ordered those who were responsible for such things to find the eldest of Pythius’ sons and cut him in half, then to place the two halves of the body on either side of the road, so that the army could march out between them.

(b) How far do you think Herodotus helps us to understand Xerxes' character? Explain your opinion.

[18]

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This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Option 1: The Greeks defend themselves, 499–479 BC**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 4 **or** Question 5.

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 4** 'The Hellenic League showed how determined the Greeks were to resist the Persians.' Using Herodotus' account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- outline which states joined the Hellenic League to resist the Persians;
- explain why some states resisted the Persians and other states did not;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;
- consider how reliable you think Herodotus is.

[30]

- 5** 'In the war against Xerxes, the Spartans were the ones who saved the Greeks.' Using Herodotus' account, explain how far you agree with this view.

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of the role of the Spartans in 480–479 BC;
- explain to what extent the Spartans were responsible for the victory of the Greeks;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Herodotus;
- consider how reliable you think Herodotus is.

[30]

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It consists of multiple sets of three horizontal dashed lines, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, leaving ample room for writing practice. There is no text or other markings on the page.

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Section A

6 Briefly outline **two** reasons why the murder of Philip was significant for Alexander.

..... [5]

Option 2: Alexander the Great 356–323 BC

- 7 Read Passage 2A from Arrian, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 2A

He himself led those with him for a short time further to the right, but when the cavalry who had been sent to help against the Persians who were encircling the right wing had broken their frontline to some extent, he turned through the gap and made a wedge formation with the companion cavalry and the part of the main phalanx stationed there, and then led them at a run with a full battle cry straight at Darius himself. For a short time there was hand-to-hand fighting; but when the cavalry around Alexander and Alexander himself pressed strongly on the Persians, thrusting them back and striking their faces with their spears, and the dense Macedonian phalanx, bristling with pikes, had already fully engaged with them, Darius himself, who had now been terrified for a long time, could only see dreadful things around him and was the first to turn and flee.

Arrian, *Anabasis of Alexander* 3.14

- (a) What does Passage 2A tell us about the Macedonian battle tactics?

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Option 2: Alexander the Great 356–323 BC

- 8 Read Passage 2B from Plutarch, and answer the questions which follow.

Passage 2B

But he became low-spirited and now had little expectation of divine support and was suspicious of his friends. He was fearful of Antipater and his sons; one of them, Iolas, was his chief cup-bearer, while Cassander had just recently arrived in Babylon. Cassander had seen some barbarians performing obeisance, and as he had been brought up as a Greek and had never seen such a thing before, he laughed out loud rather rashly. Alexander was furious, and grabbing him by his hair with both hands he banged his head against the wall. On another occasion, when Cassander wanted to say something against those who were making accusations against Antipater, Alexander stopped him and said, "What do you mean? Would men come on such a long journey if they did not have real grievances, but were bringing false charges?" When Cassander said that this very thing was a sign that the charges were false, because they were a long way from any proof, Alexander burst out laughing and replied, "These are the famous arguments of the followers of Aristotle which can be used on either side of a question; you will suffer for it, if it appears you have wronged these men in any way."

Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 74

- (a) In what ways does Passage 2B help us to understand Alexander's state of mind before his final illness? [14]

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Option 2: Alexander the Great 356–323 BC

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(b) How far do you think Arrian and Plutarch help us to understand the events surrounding the death of Alexander? Explain your opinion.
You must refer **both** to Passage 2B **and** to other passages from Arrian and Plutarch you have studied. **[18]**

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Option 2: Alexander the Great 356–323 BC**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 9 **or** Question 10.

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.

- 9** To what extent do the sources suggest that Alexander's military successes depended on his closest friends?

In your answer you should:

- give a brief account of how Alexander's friends contributed to his military successes;
- explain how much Alexander **himself** achieved;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;
- consider how reliable you think Arrian and Plutarch are.

[30]

- 10** 'Alexander was always aiming at world conquest.' How far do Plutarch and Arrian support this view of Alexander's aims?

In your answer you should:

- give an account of Alexander's aims at the start of his expedition;
- explain to what extent you think his aims changed;
- show knowledge of relevant sections of Arrian and Plutarch;
- consider how accurate you think Arrian and Plutarch are.

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This image shows a full page of a worksheet designed for handwriting practice. It features approximately 20 horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly across the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no other markings or text present.

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