



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/12

Paper 1 Greek Civilisation

October/November 2025

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Answer questions from **one** section only.
For each section, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Alexander the Great

Answer **Question 1** and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions:

According to this story, after Alexander had conquered Egypt, he was anxious to found a great and populous Greek city there, to be called after him [Alexandria]. He had chosen a certain site on the advice of his architects, and was on the point of measuring and marking it out. Then as he lay asleep he dreamed that a grey-haired man of venerable appearance stood by his side and recited these lines from the *Odyssey*:

5

Out of the tossing sea where it breaks on the beaches of Egypt
Rises an isle from the waters: the name that men give it is Pharos

Alexander rose the next morning and immediately visited Pharos.

(Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 26)

- (a) (i) At the mouth of which river does Alexandria stand? [1]
- (ii) Who composed the *Odyssey* (line 6)? [1]
- (iii) Give the name of **two** of the cities Alexander had captured before conquering Egypt. [2]
- (iv) After founding Alexandria, Alexander visited Siwah. Which Egyptian god had an oracle at Siwah? [1]
- (b) 'Alexander's importance lies in the world he left behind him, not in what he did during his lifetime.'
Using this passage as a starting point, explain how far you agree with this statement. [20]

[Total: 25]

EITHER

- 2** How far would you agree that Alexander was able to command an army but was unable to rule an empire? [25]

OR

- 3** 'Alexander's passion was for glory only, and in that he could not be satisfied.' (Arrian)
Explain to what extent you agree with Arrian's opinion of Alexander the Great. [25]

Section B: Aristophanes

Answer **Question 4** and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

4 Read the passage and answer the questions:

XANTHIAS:	Lord Heracles, we're done for!	
DIONYSUS:	Sh! Don't call me that, for god's sake: don't even breathe my name.	
XANTHIAS:	Dionysus, then.	
DIONYSUS:	No, that's even worse.	
XANTHIAS:	[<i>to the spectral creature</i>] Be gone to whence you came! [<i>To</i>	5
	DIONYSUS, <i>who has taken refuge somewhere</i>] Come back here!	
DIONYSUS:	[<i>returning</i>] What is it?	
XANTHIAS:	Don't worry. It's all right now. We've weathered the storm. Or, as	
	Hegelochus would say, 'the pillows heave no more'. Which is to say,	
	Empusa's gone.	10
DIONYSUS:	Do you promise?	
XANTHIAS:	I swear.	
DIONYSUS:	Swear again.	
XANTHIAS:	Cross my heart.	
DIONYSUS:	You're quite sure?	15
XANTHIAS:	She's gone, I'm telling you.	
DIONYSUS:	My god, I turned quite white when I saw her!	
XANTHIAS:	[<i>pointing to the back of his robe</i>] This, on the other hand, has turned	
	brown with fear.	

(Aristophanes, *Frogs*)

- (a) (i) 'Lord Heracles' (line 1). Give **one** reason why Xanthias might have called for Heracles' help. [1]
- (ii) Name **two** types of humour used in this passage. Write down an example of each from the passage. [4]
- (b) How is the relationship between Dionysus and Xanthias portrayed in this passage? How typical is this of their relationship elsewhere in the play? [20]

[Total: 25]

EITHER

- 5** 'Aristophanes uses a much wider range of comic techniques in *Women at the Thesmophoria* than in *Lysistrata*.' How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer, you should discuss **both** plays. [25]

OR

- 6** To what extent do you think that the skill of the actors was the least important factor in how funny a Greek comedy was? In your answer, you should discuss **at least two** plays. [25]

Section C: Themes in Greek Vase Painting

Answer **Question 7** and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

- 7 Study the images and answer the questions:

Image 1



Image 2



- (a) (i) Give the name of the painter of the pot shown in **Image 1**. [2]
- (ii) Give the approximate date for the pot shown in **Image 1**. [1]
- (iii) On what type of drinking vessel is the scene shown in **Image 1** painted? [1]
- (iv) What type of event has the young man depicted in the scene shown in **Image 1** been attending? [1]
- (b) How effectively do you think that these two images portray the roles of men and women in society as being different? In your answer, you should include discussion of specific details from both scenes. [20]

[Total: 25]

EITHER**8** 'A master of mood.'

To which of the red-figure vase painters you have studied does this statement best apply? In your answer, you should include reference to specific pots by **at least three** named painters. [25]

OR**9** 'Regular, repetitive and boring.'

How far do you agree with this opinion of black-figure vase painting? To explain your answer, you should include reference to **at least three** specific examples of pots painted in the black-figure style. [25]

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