



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/31

Paper 3 Classical History

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 **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Athens and Sparta

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

- 1** Read the passage and answer the question.

Plataea was being hard pressed by Thebes, and as Cleomenes the son of Anaxandrides happened to be in the neighbourhood with a Spartan army, the Plataeans first thought of putting themselves into Spartan hands. The Spartans, however, refused the offer: 'We live too far apart and an alliance with us would be but little help to you; you might be carried off into slavery several times over before any of us even heard of it. Our advice is that you make your surrender to Athens – Athens is your neighbour, and Athenian help is by no means to be despised.' The advice did not come out of goodwill to Plataea, but merely from the Spartans' desire to involve Athens in quarrels with the Boeotians. 5

(Herodotus, *Histories* 6.108 [adapted])

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss Sparta's attitude to war and foreign policy before and during the Persian Wars (499-479 BCE). [20]

EITHER

- 2** To what extent were the Athenians able to control their leaders? [30]

OR

- 3** To what extent do the sources provide a negative view of Sparta and its system? [30]

Section B: Emperors and Subjects: Claudius, Nero, Domitian and Trajan

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

- 4** Read the passage and answer the question.

Trajan replies to Pliny, governor of Bithynia.

There is no need, my dear Pliny, for more soldiers to be transferred to guard-duty in the prisons. We should continue the custom of the province and use public slaves as warders. Their reliability depends on your watchfulness and discipline. For, as you say in your letter, if we mix soldiers with public slaves the chief danger is that both sides will become careless by relying on each other. Let us also keep to the general rule that as few soldiers as possible should be called away from active service. 5

(Pliny, *Letters* 10.20)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss the range of issues faced by the governor of a province. [20]

EITHER

- 5** How successful were emperors in improving the living conditions for ordinary citizens in Rome? In your answer, you should discuss **at least two** of Claudius, Nero, Domitian and Trajan. [30]

OR

- 6** To what extent was there opposition to the emperors' rule in Rome? In your answer, you should discuss **at least two** of Claudius, Nero, Domitian and Trajan. [30]

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