



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/33

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.

‘Pericles, because of his position, his intelligence, and his known integrity, could respect the liberty of the people and at the same time hold them in check. It was he who led them, rather than they who led him, and, since he never sought power from any wrong motive, he was under no necessity of flattering them: in fact he was so highly respected that he was able to speak angrily to them and to contradict them. Certainly when he saw that they were going too far in a mood of over-confidence, he would bring back to them a sense of their dangers; and when they were discouraged for no good reason he would restore their confidence. So, in what was nominally a democracy, power was really in the hands of the first citizen.’

5

(Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* 2.65)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how far Pericles dominated politics in Athens during his career. [20]

EITHER

- 2** Assess the impact that the growth of Athenian imperialism had on other Greek states between the end of the Persian Wars and the start of the 2nd Peloponnesian War. [30]

OR

- 3** ‘Spartan women had greater status and influence than Athenian women.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement? [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.

Nero continues to find ways to rid himself of his mother Agrippina.

Then he had a collapsible boat designed which would either sink or fall in on top of Agrippina.

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He sat up all night, with great anxiety, waiting for news of her death.

(Suetonius, *Nero* 34 [adapted])

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss Nero's treatment of his family. [20]

EITHER

- 5** How successfully did emperors deal with resistance to Roman rule in the provinces?
In your answer, you should discuss **at least two** of Claudius, Nero, Domitian and Trajan. [30]

OR

- 6** Assess the advantages and disadvantages for an ordinary Roman citizen living in Rome. [30]

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