



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) – DECEMBER 2017

WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE

(WCCG 1 – New Syllabus)

GREEK LITERATURE AND LITERARY THEORY

(Time Allowed - Three Hours)

The total number of questions in this paper is twelve (12)

Answer question 01 and FOUR other questions, selecting TWO from each Part.

1. Comment on the subject matter of any FOUR of the following referring them to their contexts.

- (a) No seal of his have I unsealed in these ten years.
Of pleasure found with other men, or any breath
Of scandal: I know no more than how to dip hot steal.
- (b) Now my curse on the murderer, whoever he is
A lone man unknown in his crime
Or one among many, let that man drag out
His life in agony, step by painful step
- (c) She is something different, something greater – she it is
Who has brought the queen, and me, and this whole house to ruin
- (d) I'll tell you what I'll do; I'll let you torture this slave of mine.
And if I'm proved guilty, take me off and kill me.
- (e) This however took place long after Xerxes' invasion of Greece, and I must get
back to my story.
- (f) Such were the events connected to the plague.
- (g) I can't help wondering whether it is the virtuous love in my body, which
desires such noises and tickling sensations as a sneeze.

(5x4)

PART 1 – Greek Literature

2. Discuss the role of *hubris*, or pride, that led Agamemnon to his death in Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*.
3. How does Oedipus come to embody the riddle of the Sphinx in Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*? Explain with reference to the text.
4. Examine the importance of the themes of moderation and chastity to understand the motivations of the characters in Euripides' *Hippolytus*.
5. Does Aristophanes' *Frogs* put forward any coherent vision (or ideal) about poetry? Elucidate.
6. Analyse Herodotus' views on the way the gods and fate influence the making of history in Herodotus' *Histories*.
7. Assess the elements of Athenian democracy that emerge from the speeches of Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*.
8. Evaluate why Diotima is introduced at the end of Plato's *Symposium*.

PART 2 – Literary Theory

9. Explain Plato's views on poetry and their place in education in his *Republic*.
10. Survey the constituent elements of tragedy according to Aristotle's *Poetics*.
11. "The nobility of diction is a source of the sublime in Longinus' *On the Sublime*". How far would you agree with this statement?
12. Write a critical summary on Demetrius and his observations on style.

(20X4)



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) – DECEMBER 2017

WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE

(WCCG 2 – New Syllabus)

ROMAN LITERATURE AND LITERARY THEORY

(Time Allowed - Three Hours)

The total number of questions in this paper is ten (10)

Answer question 01 and FOUR other questions, selecting at least ONE from each Part.

1. Comment on the subject matter of any FOUR of the following referring them to their contexts.
 - (a) Well, for Jupiter's sake who am I, if not Sosia?
 - (b) Therefore superstition in its turn lies crushed beneath his feet, and we by his triumph are lifted level with the skies.
 - (c) As with a man scarce propels his boat
Against the stream...
 - (d) For it was felt that they were being sacrificed to one man's brutality rather than to the national interest.
 - (e) Dishonest hope is always credulous.
 - (f) At the site of a friend's tears they weep too.

(5x4)

PART 1 – ROMAN LITERATURE

2. Discuss the significance of the theme of identity in Plautus' *Amphitryon*.
3. Elucidate Lucretius' fundamental principles *On the Nature of the Universe*.

4. Would you consider Virgil's *Georgics* a didactic Poem? Give reasons.
5. Examine Tacitus views in the *Annals* on EITHER (a) Augustus' rise to power OR (b) Nero's culpability for the fire in Rome.
6. Evaluate the literary and philosophical elements of Seneca's *Thyestes*.
7. What are Juvenal's views on Roman women? Analyse with reference to the *Satires* that you have studied.

PART 2 – ROMAN LITERARY THEORY

8. "Horace's advice to the poet in the *Ars Poetica* is sensible and practical." How far would you agree with this statement.
9. Discuss Cicero's views on Oratory.
10. Assess Quintilian's recommendations for the education of the orator.

(20x4)



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) – DECEMBER 2017

WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE

(WCCG 3 – New Syllabus)

GREEK THOUGHT

(Time Allowed - Three Hours)

The total number of questions in this paper is nine (09)

Answer question 01 and FOUR other questions, selecting at least ONE from each Part.

1. Comment on any FOUR of the following excerpts selecting TWO from each philosopher.

PLATO: *The Republic*

- (a) But the state of god and the divine is perfect, and therefore God is least liable of all things to be changed into other forms.
- (b) But when our men and women get past the age of breeding, then we can leave them free to mate as they please...
- (c) So the painter, carpenter and god are each responsible for one kind of bed.

ARISTOTLE: *The Ethics*

- (d) Vice such as is shown by the intemperate man is like dropsy or tuberculosis, whereas incontinence is like dropsy.
- (e) So evidently wisdom must be the most finished form of knowledge.
- (f) It follows that suicide commits an injustice. But against whom?

(5x4)

PART 1 – Plato's *Republic*

2. Outline the popular Greek views on justice as presented in Book 1.
3. Examine Plato's views on the soul and their significance to the composition of his ideal state.
4. According to Plato, what makes the philosopher-king the best possible ruler? Do you agree with his analysis?
5. Analyse what the allegory of the cave is meant to illustrate and how it achieves this purpose.

PART 2 – Aristotle's *Ethics*

6. Why is happiness considered the best thing for human beings? Give reasons with reference to the text.
7. Discuss the role that choice plays in making one just or unjust.
8. Evaluate Aristotle's views on the 'Mean.'
9. What are the five faculties of the rational part of the soul and in what modes do they find expression? Elucidate.

(20x4)