

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL)- AUGUST 2016



WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE 1

(WCCG1- NEW SYLLABUS)

Greek Literature and Literary Theory

(Time Allowed- Three Hours)



The total number of questions in this paper is 12.

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Answer question **01** and **FOUR** other questions selecting at least ONE from PART II.

1. Comment on the subject matter of any **FOUR** of the following referring them to their contexts.
  - (a) Thus to the gods I pray first my full salutation  
For your advice, I note it; I am of your mind,  
And uphold your judgment.
  - (b) Where then are Apollo's words.  
His Pythian oracles? What becomes men's sworn oaths?  
Make all men living your enemies, but not the gods.
  - (c) Better to do the thing you want to do, and save  
Your life, than die for the vain boast of chastity.
  - (d) Now remember you swore by the gods to take me home!
  - (e) Next ingenuity to the old marriage custom is their treatment of disease.
  - (f) As to the reasons why they broke the truce, I propose first to give an account of the causes of complaint which they had against each other and of the specific instances where their interests clashed.

- (g) Then Socrates, having put both his interlocutors to sleep, got up and went away, followed by Aristodemus, as usual.

### PART I –LITERATURE

2. “None but Agamemnon is responsible for what he suffered” Comment on this statement with reference to Aeschylus’ *Agamemnon*.
3. Discuss the psychological turmoil Sophocles imparts on the characters of Oedipus and Jocasta in the play *The king Oedipus*.
4. “Euripides understands women better than any ancient Greek playwright.” Do you agree with this statement? Give your reasons with reference to the character of Phaedra in Euripides’ *Hippolytus*.
5. Examine the poetic contest between Aeschylus and Euripides in Aristophanes’ *Frogs* in the light of literary criticism.
6. What are the elements in the *Histories* that stand against Herodotus from being called a Historian? Discuss.
7. Do you consider Thucydides as a serious historian? Give your reasons.
8. Discuss the contribution of the characters of Agathon, Alcibiades and Aristophanes towards the portrayal of the character and personality of Socrates in Plato’s *Symposium*.

## PART II – LITERARY THEORY

9. Explain the style of poetry Homer has imparted into his epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.
10. “Plato’s contradictory views on the value of the poet betray his confusion on this issue.” Comment on this statement in the light of Plato’s ideology on poet as a teacher in his *Republic*.
11. For Aristotle poetry is a “medium of imitation.” Comment on this statement with reference to Aristotle’s *Poetics*.
12. Discuss Demetrius’ contributions to literary criticism.

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WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE 1

(WCCG1- Old Syllabus)

Greek Literature and Literary Theory



(Time Allowed- Three Hours)

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Answer question 01 and **FOUR** other questions selecting at least **ONE** from **PART II**.

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

(a) A trap, not of iron, but thread, made you  
their pray, my father.

(b) **EITHER**

(i) That is my only hope; to await the  
Shepherd.

**OR**

(ii) No, By your leave, divinities,  
My curse must yet be spoken. Heartless fiend  
My eyes were dark long since, and you have torn  
My last poor light, my helpless darling from me.

(c) **EITHER**

(i) Of course a stranger must conform; even a Greek  
Should not annoy his fellows by crass stubbornness.

**OR**

(ii) O, Zeus! Why have you established in the sunlit world  
This counterfeit coin, woman, to curse the human race?

(d) **EITHER**

(i) There certainly doesn't seem to be much point in trying to teach you them.

**OR**

(ii) I shall have all the law courts and arcades converted into dining-halls.

(e) Why Zeus sometimes comes down as rain  
Sometimes gold, well don't you see, it's Zeus' doing.

(f) The Athenians considered that his advice was best and voted as he had asked them to vote.

(g) But, for Socrates, everybody in the world is wretched, beginning with yourself.

**PART I – LITERATURE**

2. "The themes of justice and revenge are very closely intertwined in Aeschylus' play *the Libation bearers*". Do you agree? Give reasons.

**3. EITHER**

(i) "Sophocles' play *King Oedipus* is a fine portrayal of the inevitability to evade one's fate" Discuss.

**OR**

(ii) Discuss the themes of Sophocles' play *Oedipus at Colonus*.

4. Do you think that Euripides' portrayal of the character of Medea in the play *Medea* should have been better than what it is? Give reasons.

**5. EITHER**

- (i) "Aristophanes' *Clouds* is a dig at Sophistic teaching." Comment on this statement.

**OR**

- (II) "*The Assembly of Women* of Aristophanes is not mere comedy, but it has a more serious undertone." Discuss.

6. Examine the outstanding features of Greek New Comedy that can be noticed in Menander's *The Samian Woman*?
7. What scientific methods of writing history does Thucydides use in compiling *the Peloponnesian War* and how do they differ from the *Histories* of Herodotus? Discuss.
8. "Plato's *Symposium* is a fine portrayal of Socrates as an extraordinary person" Comment on this statement with appropriate examples from the text.

**PART II- LITERARY THEORY**

9. Examine the poetic skill, the nature of poetic experience and the position of the poet in their contemporary society as can be seen in the poems of Hesiod.
10. Discuss the value Plato attaches to poets as educators of the young Guardians with reference to the establishment of his ideal state.
11. Discuss the elements of a good/ successful tragedy with reference to Aristotle's *Poetics*.
12. What are the key qualities as stated by Longinus that obstruct good style? Discuss.

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL)- AUGUST 2016



WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE II

(WCCG2- NEW SYLLABUS)

Roman Literature and Literary Theory

(Time Allowed- Three Hours)



The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

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Answer question **01** and **FOUR** other questions selecting at least **ONE** from PART II.

1. Comment on the subject matter of any **FOUR** of the following referring them to their contexts.
  - (a) He has always been in these affairs, what a wonderful  
Lover he is, when he comes across something he fancies.
  - (b) The image of a Centaur, for instance, is certainly not formed from the life, since no living creature of this sort ever existed.
  - (c) The moral is  
That every tree needs labour, all must be  
Forced into furrows, tamed at any cost.
  - (d) It seemed easy to destroy the settlement; for it had no walls. That was a matter which Roman commanders, thinking of amenities rather than needs, had neglected.
  - (e) Now... to watch his face!... to see its colour  
Change, when he sees the faces of his sons!  
To listen to his first tormented cries,  
To see his body stiffen with the shock as if struck dead.
  - (f) When she wants to go out of town, a mile even, or less, she computes a propitious time for her tables.

## PART I –LITERATURE

2. Examine the manner in which Plautus handles his characters to generate humour in his play the *Amphitruon*.
3. Discuss how Lucretius, in his work *On the nature of the Universe*, attempts to achieve his objective of freeing humans from fear.
4. 'Virgil depicts a realistic life of a farmer.' Do you agree with this statement? Give your reasons.
5. How would you assess Tacitus as a historian? Discuss with appropriate examples from his *Annals*.
6. To what extent do you think Seneca's characterization of Atreus and Thyestes contributes to dramatizing fear and horror in an appalling manner? Discuss with reference to his *Thyestes*.
7. To what extent does Juvenal educate us of the horrors and risks of his contemporary Roman society through his *Sixteen Satires*? Explain.

## PART II – LITERARY THEORY

8. 'Oratory imparts a skill greater than handling words.' Comment on this concept based on Cicero's ideology.
  
9. Do you consider Horace's advice to poets as wise and practical? Why? Explain your reasons.
  
10. How would you assess Quintilian as an educationist? Discuss.

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WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE II

(WCCG2- Old Syllabus)

Roman Literature and Literary Theory

(Time Allowed- Three Hours)



The total number of questions in this paper is 11.

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Answer question **01** and **FOUR** other questions selecting at least ONE from PART II.

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

(a) A well-laid plan is worse than no plan at all, if the enemy can make use of it.

(b) **EITHER**

i. It was my eagerness to restore your sister to your keeping that brought all this on my head, and a lot more besides.

**OR**

ii Why go on and on when I keep telling you I know?  
You are afraid you'll have to marry the girls.

(c) To pick up the thread of my discourse, all nature as it is in itself consists of two things- bodies and the vacant space in which the bodies are situated and through which they move in different directions.

(d) From your pages, as bees in flowery glades sip every blossom so do I crop all your Golden Sayings – Golden indeed and forever worthy of everlasting life.

(e) This was widely rumoured. But it is not backed by any reliable authority- and it can be confidently refuted.

(f) **EITHER**

(i) This was the sight you could not bear to see!  
This was the sin that drove daylight back  
To where it came from.

**OR**

(ii) ..... But here Phaedra comes  
In such impatient haste, no hand can stop her.  
How will fate shape the outcome of this passion?

(g) ... In the old days Poverty  
Kept Latin women chaste – hard work, too little sleep,  
These were the things that saved their humble homes from  
Corruption.

### **PART I– LITERATURE**

2. Explain by using what techniques Plautus generates humour in his *Swaggering Soldier*.

3. **EITHER**

(i) “The *Eunuch* portrays different character types of the contemporary Athenian society.” Discuss this with reference to the manner Terence accomplishes it in his comedy the *Eunuch*.

**OR**

(ii) Examine the character of Davos in the *Girl from Andros* with reference to his contribution to the plot construction and the development of the other major characters in the play.

4. Assess Lucretius' use of the world of appearance to explain the world of reality.
5. "The bucolic life portrayed in Virgil's *Eclogues* is far from reality. Comment on this statement.
6. "Seneca's plays are filled with horror because for him tragedy is simply the portrayal of horror." Comment on this statement **EITHER** with reference to Seneca's *Phaedra* **OR** his *Thyestes*.
7. What does Juvenal portray of his contemporary Roman society? Was he trying to improve it? Examine.
8. On what grounds can we call Tacitus a historian? Discuss.

## PART II- LITERARY THEORY

9. "Not all ideas of Horace on poetry are necessary." Do you agree with this statement? Give your reasons with reference to *Ars Poetica*.
10. Explain the main points in Tacitus' *De Oratore*.
11. Discuss Quintilian's views on the essential features of good style.

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL)- AUGUST 2016



WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE III

(WCCG 3- NEW SYLLABUS)

Greek Thought

(Time Allowed- Three Hours)



The total number of questions in this paper is 09.

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Answer question **01** and **FOUR** other questions selecting at least **TWO** from each **PART**.

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

**PLATO: *The Republic***

- (a) 'That it is right to give every man his due,' he replied; 'In that, I think, he puts the matter fairly enough.'
- (b) 'And so in all spheres justice is useless when you are using things, and useful when you are not?'
- (c) 'excessive emphasis on athletics produces an excessively uncivilized type, while a purely literary training leaves men indecently soft.'
- (d) The realm revealed by light corresponds to the prison, and the light of the fire in the prison to the power of the sun.

**ARISTOTLE: *The Ethics***

(e) By feelings I mean desire, anger, fear, daring, envy, friendliness, hatred, longing, jealousy,

pity and in general all conditions that are attended by pleasure or pain.

(f) Also we choose what we know very well to be good, but we form opinions about things that we do not really know to be 'good.'

(g) Thus it is evident that incontinence is not vice, because it is contrary to the agent's choice whereas vice is in accordance with choice.

(h) That such friendships are rare is natural, because men of this kind are few.

**PART I- PLATO: *The Republic***

2. Do you think Plato was successful in his attempts to equate women with men as Rulers in his Ideal State? Discuss.
3. How would you assess the nature of the visible world and intelligible world mentioned by Plato in his *Republic* with reference to the way they are connected to each other? Explain.
4. Explain the psychological basis on which Plato equates the building of a State to building of an individual.
5. Analyze Plato's hostility to arts.

## PART II - ARISTOTLE: *The Ethics*

6. Explain the kind of nature / qualities a man must possess to be called a Happy Man according to Aristotle' ideology.
7. Every virtue is accompanied by two vices. How does Aristotle state this in the *Ethics*? Explain.
8. Examine Aristotle's views on continence and incontinence.
9. Explain Aristotle's idea on friendship with reference to the way it contributes to achieve the state of highest Happiness (*Eudaimonia*).

GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL)- AUGUST 2016



WESTERN CLASSICAL CULTURE III

(WCCG 3B- Old Syllabus)

Greek Philosophy

(Time Allowed- Three Hours)



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The total number of questions in this paper is 10.

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Answer **FIVE** questions.

1. "Thales is the first Greek philosopher." Do you agree with this saying? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Analyze Anaximander's and Anaximenes' views on the primary substance of the Universe.
3. "In Heraclitus' cosmology, Fire is the symbol of the fundamental nature of the universe but not the First principle." Comment on this statement.
4. Discuss the concept of Love and Hate in the cosmology of Empedocles.
5. Evaluate Pythagoras' theory on reincarnation with reference to the liberation of the soul.
6. Discuss Anaxagoras' perception on the origin of the universe.
7. What are Zeno's arguments against the possibility of Motion? Discuss.

8. Examine the way in which Democritus explains "though the atoms only had shapes and size, things made out of them possess other qualities."

9. "Socrates was the greatest sophist that emerged in ancient Greece." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

10. Examine Plato's theory of Forms.