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UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2018

GREEK LITERATURE AND LITERARY THEORY I – WCCG 1  
(NEW SYLLABUS)

The total number of questions in this paper is 12

Answer question one (01) and select at least two (02) questions each from Part I and Part II,  
and answer a total of Four (04) questions.

Time allowed: Three (03) hours

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1. Comment on the subject matter of any four (04) of the following referring them to their contexts:
- Servants, do as you have been bidden;  
Make haste, carpet his way with crimson tapestries,  
Spread silk before your master's feet; Justice herself  
Shall lead him to a home he never hoped to see.
  - This day brings you your birth; and brings you death.
  - So I must trace for you the path my thoughts followed.  
When love struck me, I searched for the best way to endure  
The wound.
  - Now, whichever of you can think of the best piece of advice to give Athenians at this  
juncture, he's the one I shall take back with me.
  - Herodotus of Halicarnassus, his Researches are here set down to preserve the memory of  
the past by putting on record the astonishing achievements both of our own and of other  
peoples; and more particularly, to show how they came into conflict.
  - Your great glory is not to be inferior to what God has made you, and the greatest glory  
of a woman is to be least talked about by men, whether they are praising you or criticizing  
you.
  - According to Greek mythology, humans were originally created with four arms, four legs  
and a head with two faces. Fearing their power, Zeus split them into two separate parts,  
condemning them to spend their lives in search of their other halves.

(5x4)

## Part I: Greek Literature

2. "In the play, *Agamemnon* by Aeschylus, Clytemnestra plays a variety of roles and can be examined through a variety of lenses." Examine the truth of this statement with examples from Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*.
3. Discuss the ideas of sight and blindness in the play, *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles.
4. Analyze the conflict between lust and chastity in the play, *Hippolytus* by Euripides.
5. "Whenever we discuss the *Frogs* of Aristophanes we find ourselves discussing Athenian tragedy." How far would you agree with this statement? Support your answer with examples from this play.
6. Examine Herodotus' method of presenting historical facts in his work, the *Histories*.
7. Critically discuss the funeral speech of Pericles as it is presented by Thucydides in *The Peloponnesian War*.
8. "Plato's *Symposium* deals with the complex question of Love". Discuss this statement with reference to Plato's *Symposium*.

## Part II: Greek literary theory

9. Examine Plato's attitude to poetry and the poets with reference to his dialogue, the *Republic*.
10. Critically assess the theory of *mimesis* (imitation) as presented by Aristotle in his *Poetics*.
11. Do you consider Longinus' *On the Sublime* as a practical guidebook for writers? Support your answer with relevant examples from the text.
12. Explore the four kinds of styles presented by Demetrius in his work *On Style*.

(20x4)



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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2018

**ROMAN LITERATURE AND LITERARY THEORY – WCCG 2  
(NEW SYLLABUS)**

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

Answer question one (01) and select at least one (01) question each from Part I and Part II, and answer a total of four (04) questions.

Time allowed: Three (03) hours

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1. Comment on the subject matter of any four (04) of the following referring them to their contexts:
- For my father, Jupiter is inside now, he has turned himself into Amphitryo's image, and all the servants who see him think that he is him.
  - My object has been to engage your mind with my verses while you gain insight into the nature of the universe and the pattern of its architecture.
  - But smooth my path, smile on my enterprise,  
Pity with me the unguided steps of farmers,  
Come forward, and learn already to answer prayer.
  - The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws.
  - After so many crimes, so many sleights  
Committed on me by that miscreant brother  
In violation of all sacred law.
  - Look around the arcades, try to pick out a woman  
Who's worthy of your devotion.

(5x4)

## Part I: Roman literature

2. Examine the role of the divinities in the play, *Amphitryon*, by Plautus.
3. What are the Epicurean views regarding religion and the existence of god as presented by Lucretius in *On the Nature of the Universe*?
4. Evaluate Virgil's *Georgics* as a political text.
5. Explore examples from Tacitus' *Annals* on his views about power and slavery.
6. "Seneca's *Thyestes* is a tragedy of violence and intrigue". How far would you agree with this statement. Give reasons.
7. Does *Satire VI* of Juvenal offer any views regarding the decline of moral values? Elucidate your answer with examples from Juvenal's *Satire VI*.

## Part II: Roman literary theory

8. What are the things that Horace advises his poet not to present on stage in his *Ars Poetica* and why do you think he forbids them? Discuss.
9. According to Cicero what are the elements important to consider when creating a speech and making an argument? Examine with reference to Cicero's works.
10. What according to Quintilian's observations *on Education* are the goals of education?

(20x4)



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EXAMINATION IN BACHELOR OF ARTS(GENERAL) EXTERNAL - NOVEMBER  
2018

GREEK THOUGHT – WCCG 3  
(NEW SYLLABUS)

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

Answer question one (01) and four (04) other questions, selecting two (02) from each part.

Time allowed: Three (03) hours

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1. Select two extracts from sections A and B, and Comment on the subject matter of each four (04) of the following referring them to their contexts:

**Section A: Plato's *Republic***

- a) That is what I meant by saying that we must start to educate the mind before training the body.
- b) Then you say that the artist's representation stands at third remove from reality?
- c) And further, we have often heard it said and often said ourselves that injustice consists in minding your own business and not interfering with other people.

**Section B: Aristotle's *Nichomachean Ethics***

- d) Acts which are the effects of passion are surely the very last that can be called acts of deliberate choice.
- e) Justice is the only virtue which is regarded as benefiting someone else than its possessor.
- f) It is not only that friendship is necessary to the good life, it is in itself a good and beautiful thing.

(5x4)

**Part I: Plato's *Republic***

2. Examine Plato's theory of Forms as described in Plato's *Republic*.
3. What harm does Socrates see in allowing the young to hear stories of gods acting unjustly? Discuss this with relevant examples from the text.
4. "Socrates dislikes democracy." Define what he means by democracy and discuss how it differs from our modern (current) understanding of the term.
5. How does the allegory of the cave describe the process of acquiring knowledge? Elucidate.

**Part II: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics***

6. Evaluate the relationship of ethics to politics in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*.
7. Assess Aristotle's Doctrine of the Mean by paying attention to its extremes and deficiencies.
8. Critically analyze whether Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* is a theoretical or a practical treatise.
9. Explore the views presented by Aristotle on the nature of friendship.

(20x4)