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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
2019

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

The total number of questions in this paper is 12

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

Time allowed: Three (03) hours

1. Comment on the subject matter of any four (04) of the following referring them to their contexts:

- a) Never cross my path with robes and draw the lightning.
Never—only the gods deserve the pomps of honour
And the stiff brocades of fame.
- b) O Tiresias, master of all the mysteries of our life,
All you teach and all you dare not tell,
Signs in the heavens, signs that walk the earth!
- c) Oh, gods have pity! Whatever did I do?
How far did I stray from sanity?
I was mad; a malign god struck me down.
What shall I do? What will become of me?
- d) You are beaten, and you know it. That bottle of oil keeps turning up like a stye on the eye. It's time you turned your attention to his lyrics.
- e) The ship continued her voyage to Corinth, and the dolphin picked up Arion and carried him on its back to Taenarum. Here Arion landed, and made his way in his singing costume to Corinth, where he told the whole story.
- f) We now come to the actual outbreak of war between Athens and her allies on the one side and the Peloponnesians and their allies on the other. There was now no further communication between the two sides except through heralds.
- g) But now I will leave you in peace, and try to give the account of Love which I once heard from a woman of Mantinae, called Diotima.

(5x4)

Part I: Greek Literature

2. Do you consider Agamemnon is ultimately responsible for his own downfall in Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*? Discuss.
3. "The tragedy of Oedipus is a story of crime and punishment where the principal character deserves his fate." Examine this statement with reference to *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles.
4. Evaluate how Aphrodite, Artemis, and Phaedra each contribute to the death of Hippolytus in Euripides' *Hippolytus*.
5. "One of the important themes in Aristophanes' *Frogs* is the power of literature in society." Do you agree? Discuss.
6. Assess the significant role played by oracles in the *Histories* of Herodotus.
7. Examine Thucydides' account of the effects of the plague on Athenian character in *The Peloponnesian War*.
8. Describe the nature of the lover and beloved in relationships as presented by the speakers in Plato's *Symposium*.

Part II: Greek Literary Theory

9. Evaluate Plato's theory of Forms with reference to his *Republic*.
10. What is Aristotle's definition of tragedy explained in his *Poetics*, and what examples of his definition can you find in the Greek tragedies that you have studied? Discuss.
11. In *On the Sublime*, how does Longinus determine if a work is sublime or not? Explain with examples.
12. "Demetrius' *On Style* offers a very detailed and instructive account of ancient stylistic theory that shows us the development of rhetorical teaching". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons.

(20x4)



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GENERAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2019

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

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

Answer question one (01). Select at least one (01) question each from Part I and Part II, and answer a total of four (04) other 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:
- What on earth has he come back for, after saying he couldn't stay a minute longer? Could he be trying to catch me out and make sure whether I really miss him?
 - Next, I maintain that mind and spirit are interconnected and compose between them a single substance. But what I may call the head and the dominant force in the whole body is that guiding principle which we term mind or intellect.
 - What makes the corn crops glad, under which star
Turn the soil, Maecenas; and wed your vines
To elms, the care of cattle, keeping of flocks,
All the experience thrifty bees demand,
Such are the themes of my song.
 - Nobody had any immediate worries as long as Augustus retained his physical powers, and kept himself going, and his House, and the peace of the empire. But when old age incapacitated him, his approaching end brought hopes of change.
 - Welcome, brother! How glad I am to see you! Let me feel
That long-desired embrace...let us forget
The anger that has parted us; henceforth

Let love and kinship ever be our law,
All enmity condemned and put away.

- f) To bounce your neighbour's bed, my friend, to outrage
Matrimonial sanctity is now an ancient and long-
Established tradition.

(5x4)

Part I: Roman literature

2. Evaluate the identity crisis in Plautus' *Amphitryon*.
3. "Lucretius' *On the Nature of the Universe* is an assault on the ignorance and superstition of the Roman society of his time." Do you agree? Support your answer with examples from the text.
4. Examine how Virgil's *Georgics* glorifies many aspects of country life.
5. Critically evaluate the idea of tyranny explored by Tacitus in his *Annals*.
6. "Seneca's *Thyestes* is one of the most brutal revenge plays in the history of drama." Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons.
7. Analyze Juvenal's attitudes towards women through his *Satires*.

Part II: Roman literary theory

8. "The central theme of *Ars Poetica* is that a poem should captivate the reader with the same allure of a masterly painting or sculpture." Comment on this statement with reference to Horace's *Ars Poetica*.
9. Examine the oratorical skills that Cicero imparts to his orators by referring to his works.
10. "Quintilian believed that the goal of education was to create an upstanding citizen in every part of everyday life and to cultivate an individual above the basic standards of nature." Discuss.

(20x4)



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2019

EXAMINATION IN BACHELOR OF ARTS (GENERAL) EXTERNAL –
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

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

1. Select two extracts each from sections A and B, and Comment on the subject matter referring them to their contexts:

Section A: Plato's *Republic*

- a) But are we really to say that doing right, consists simply and solely in truthfulness and returning anything we have borrowed?
- b) We must stop all stories of this kind, and stop mothers being misled by them and scaring their children with harmful myths by telling tales about a host of gods that prowl about at night in a strange variety of shapes.
- c) You are, all of you in this community, brothers. But when god fashioned you, he added gold in the composition of those of you who are qualified to be Rulers (which is why their prestige is greatest); he put silver in the Auxiliaries, and iron and bronze in the farmers and other workers.

Section B: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

- d) Every man is a good judge of what he understands: in special subjects the specialist, over the whole field of knowledge the man of general culture. This is the reason why political science is not a proper study for the young.
- e) We have found that moral excellence or virtue has to do with feelings and actions. These may be voluntary or involuntary.
- f) This means that, when a friendship is founded on the expectation of some advantage to be received, what the friends are thinking of is their own good; when it is based on the expectation of pleasure, they are thinking of what is pleasant to themselves.

(5x4)

Part I: Plato's *Republic*

- 2. Examine the Allegory of the Cave and state the importance of it to Plato's main argument in his *Republic*.
- 3. Critically assess the arguments introduced in the *Republic* in relation to the concept of Justice.
- 4. "Plato introduces censorship in art." Do you agree with this statement? Discuss.
- 5. Evaluate the ideas presented by Socrates about the soul with reference to the Myth of Er in Book X of the *Republic*.

Part II: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

- 6. Analyze the concept of *eudaimonia* or happiness mentioned by Aristotle in his *Nicomachean Ethics*.
- 7. "The Doctrine of the Mean maintains that virtue is a mean state between the vicious extremes of excess and deficiency." Examine this statement with relevant examples from the text.
- 8. Do you consider *Nicomachean Ethics* as a text which has a practical value to the modern day readers? Provide valid reasons to support your answer.
- 9. "Friendship would seem to hold cities together, and legislators would seem to be more concerned about it than about justice." Do you agree with this statement by Aristotle? Give reasons.

(20x4)