

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE HISTORICAL TRIPOS**

---

Wednesday 22 April 2015

9 to 12

---

Paper 12

EUROPEAN HISTORY, 776 BC–AD 69

Answer *three* questions.

Write your *number* (not your name) on the cover-sheet of each answer booklet.

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 Page Answer Book x 1*

*Rough Work Pad*

**You may not start to read the questions  
printed on the subsequent pages of this  
question paper until instructed that you  
may do so by the Invigilator**

- 1      **Either** (a) To what extent was 'Archaic Greece' anything more than a collection of insular and inward-looking communities?  
  
                  **Or**      (b) What are the distinctive challenges of writing a history of Archaic Greece?
- 2      Where was power located in democratic Athens?
- 3      'Now among the slaves and metics at Athens there is the greatest uncontrolled wantonness; you can't hit them there, and a slave will not stand aside for you' [PS. XENOPHON, *Constitution of the Athenians*]. How important was status in Classical Athens?
- 4      **Either** (a) Do archaeological remains tell a different story of empire from our literary sources? Discuss with reference to **one or more** ancient imperial powers.  
  
                  **Or**      (b) 'The Athenian empire has assumed a disproportionate importance in the eyes of modern historians as a result of the account provided by Thucydides.' Discuss.
- 5      'Rhetoric is the enemy of truth.' Discuss with reference to **one or more** Greek historians.
- 6      'All of our sources are either sycophantic or wildly polemical.' Is this a fair assessment of our evidence for Classical Sparta?
- 7      'It was the peculiarities of her economic situation which both allowed for Sparta's rise to power and ultimately caused her decline.' Discuss.
- 8      Was all Greek religion mediated by the city?
- 9      'A westerner who went to war against the East.' How helpful is this as an assessment of Alexander's life and achievements?
- 10     'An age of rootless individuals.' How well does this characterise the Hellenistic period?
- 11     'A time of new-found female power and influence.' Discuss with reference to **either** Hellenistic Greece **or** Imperial Rome.
- 12     'The application of categories from Greek political thought to the institutions of Roman government is at best useless, at worst misleading.' Discuss.
- 13     How much scope for social mobility was there in Republican Rome?
- 14     'Imperial expansion and moral decline went hand in hand in the final years of the Republic.' Discuss.
- 15     What lessons did Augustus learn from his adoptive father?

- 16** Why does Tacitus recount anecdotes and rumours which he himself deems unworthy of credence?
- 17** Did patronage retain its significance under the Julio-Claudians?
- 18** In what ways did the Roman army shape the Roman economy?
- 19** Was Roman religion a matter of ritual without belief?
- 20** How much do a society's laws teach us about the lives of ordinary people? Discuss with reference to **one or more** ancient societies.
- 21** 'Nowhere was inequality more pronounced than in death.' How true is this of Graeco-Roman society?

**END OF PAPER**