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Classical Greek

Higher level

Paper 2

14 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer the questions in one option.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[32 marks]**.

Answer **all** questions in **one** option.

Option A

Answer **all** parts of the following question based on the provided extract.

Prescribed core text: Verse — Homer, *Iliad* 22.99–125

- ὥ μοι ἐγών, εἰ μὲν κε πύλας καὶ τείχεα δύω,
 100 Πουλυδάμας μοι πρῶτος ἐλεγχείην ἀναθήσει,
 ὅς μ' ἐκέλευε Τρῳσὶ ποτὶ πτόλιν ἡγήσασθαι
 νύχθ' ὑπο τήνδ' ὀλοὴν ὅτε τ' ὤρετο δῖος Ἀχιλλεύς.
 ἀλλ' ἐγὼ οὐ πιθόμην· ἦ τ' ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον ἦεν.
 νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ὤλεσα λαὸν ἀτασθαλίῃσιν ἐμῇσιν,
 105 αἰδέομαι Τρῶας καὶ Τρῳάδας ἐλκεσιπέπλους,
 μή ποτέ τις εἴπῃσι κακώτερος ἄλλος ἐμεῖο·
 Ἐκτωρ ἦφι βίῃφι πιθήσας ὤλεσε λαόν.
 ὣς ἐρέουσιν· ἐμοὶ δὲ τότε ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον εἴη
 ἄντην ἢ Ἀχιλῆα κατακτείναντα νέεσθαι,
 110 ἥέ κεν αὐτῷ ὀλέσθαι ἐϋκλειῶς πρὸ πόληος.
 εἰ δέ κεν ἀσπίδα μὲν καταθείομαι ὀμφαλόεσσαν
 καὶ κόρυθα βριαρὴν, δόρυ δὲ πρὸς τεῖχος ἐρείσας
 αὐτὸς ἰὼν Ἀχιλῆος ἀμύμονος ἀντίος ἔλθω
 καὶ οἱ ὑπόσχωμαι Ἑλένην καὶ κτήμαθ' ἅμ' αὐτῇ,
 115 πάντα μάλ' ὅσσά τ' Ἀλέξανδρος κοίλῃς ἐνὶ νηυσὶν
 ἡγάγετο Τροίηνδ', ἦ τ' ἔπλετο νείκεος ἀρχή,
 δωσέμεν Ἀτρεΐδῃσιν ἄγειν, ἅμα δ' ἀμφὶς Ἀχαιοῖς
 ἄλλ' ἀποδάσσεσθαι ὅσα τε πτόλιν ἦδε κέκευθε·

(Option A continues on the following page)

(Option A continued)

Τρωσὶν δ' αὖ μετόπισθε γερούσιον ὄρκον ἔλωμαι
 120 μή τι κατακρύψειν, ἀλλ' ἄνδιχα πάντα δάσασθαι
 κτῆσιν ὅσῃν πτολίεθρον ἐπήρατον ἐντὸς ἐέργει·
 ἀλλὰ τί ἦ μοι ταῦτα φίλος διελέξατο θυμός;
 μή μιν ἐγὼ μὲν ἴκωμαι ἰών, ὃ δέ μ' οὐκ ἐλεήσει
 οὐδέ τί μ' αἰδέσεται, κτενέει δέ με γυμνὸν ἐόντα
 125 αὐτὼς ὥς τε γυναῖκα, ἐπεὶ κ' ἀπὸ τεύχεα δύω.

1. (a) ὅς μ' ... οὐ πιθόμην (lines 101–103). State what happened the night Achilles attacked. Support your answer with **two** quotations from the Greek text. [2]
- (b) νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ... ὤλεσε λαόν (lines 104–107). Outline what Hector says are the consequences of his choice. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [3]
- (c) ἐμοὶ δὲ τότ' ... ἀντίος ἔλθω (lines 108–113). Outline the options Hector considers. Support your answer with **three** quotations from the Greek text. [3]
- (d) καὶ οἱ ... ἦδε κέκευθε (lines 114–118). Outline what Hector could promise to Achilles. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [4]
- (e) Analyse how Homer portrays Hector's internal conflict through his literary art in this extract. Support your answer by quoting the Greek text. [8]

Answer **either** part (a) **or** part (b).

Support your answer with evidence from **one prose** prescribed core text and **at least one** other source.

Either

2. (a) "Greek prose texts represent reality in a way that is believable to the audience." Discuss. [12]

Or

2. (b) Discuss how Greek literary texts deal with the representation of human disgrace. [12]

End of Option A

Option B

Answer **all** parts of the following question based on the provided extract.

Prescribed core text: Verse — Euripides, *Alcestis* 343–368

- παύσω δὲ κώμους συμποτῶν θ' ὁμιλίας
στεφάνους τε μοῦσάν θ' ἢ κατεῖχ' ἐμοὺς δόμους.
- 345 οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὔτ' ἄν βαρβίτου θίγοιμ' ἔτι
οὔτ' ἄν φρέν' ἐξάрайμι πρὸς Λίβυν λακεῖν
αὐλόν· σὺ γάρ μου τέρψιν ἐξείλου βίου.
σοφῇ δὲ χειρὶ τεκτόνων δέμας τὸ σὸν
εἰκασθὲν ἐν λέκτροισιν ἐκταθήσεται,
- 350 ᾧ προσπεσοῦμαι καὶ περιπτύσσων χέρας
ὄνομα καλῶν σὸν τὴν φίλην ἐν ἀγκάλαις
δόξω γυναῖκα καίπερ οὐκ ἔχων ἔχειν·
ψυχρὰν μέν, οἶμαι, τέρψιν, ἀλλ' ὅμως βάρος
ψυχῆς ἀπαντλοίην ἄν. ἐν δ' ὀνειράσιν
- 355 φοιτῶσά μ' εὐφραίνεις ἄν· ἡδὺ γὰρ φίλους
κὰν νυκτὶ λεύσσειν, ὅντιν' ἄν παρῇ χρόνον.
εἰ δ' Ὀρφέως μοι γλῶσσα καὶ μέλος παρῇν,
ὥστ' ἢ κόρην Δήμητρος ἢ κείνης πόσιν
ὔμνοισι κηλήσαντά σ' ἐξ Ἄιδου λαβεῖν,
- 360 κατῆλθον ἄν, καί μ' οὔθ' ὁ Πλούτωνος κύων
οὔθ' οὐπὶ κώπη ψυχοπομπὸς ἄν Χάρων
ἔσχον, πρὶν ἐς φῶς σὸν καταστήσαι βίον.
ἀλλ' οὖν ἐκεῖσε προσδόκα μ', ὅταν θάνω,
καὶ δῶμ' ἐτοίμαζ', ὥς συνοικήσουσά μοι.

(Option B continues on the following page)

(Option B continued)

365 ἐν ταῖσιν αὐταῖς γάρ μ' ἐπισκήψω κέδροις
 σοὶ τούσδε θεῖναι πλευρά τ' ἐκτεῖναι πέλας
 πλευροῖσι τοῖς σοῖς· μηδὲ γὰρ θανών ποτε
 σοῦ χωρὶς εἶην τῆς μόνης πιστῆς ἐμοί.

3. (a) παύσω δὲ ... λακεῖν αὐλόν (lines 343–347). Outline what Admetus tells Alcestis will happen after she dies. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [3]
- (b) σοφῇ δὲ ... παρῇ χρόνον (lines 348–356). Identify the two things Admetus thinks will provide him some comfort after Alcestis dies. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [2]
- (c) εἰ δ' Ὀρφέως ... καταστήσαι βίον (lines 357–362). Outline what Admetus claims he would do if he could sing like Orpheus. Support your answer with **four** quotations from the Greek text. [4]
- (d) ἀλλ' οὖν ... συνοικήσουσά μοι (lines 363–364). Explain Admetus's instructions to Alcestis. Support your answer with **three** quotations from the Greek text. [3]
- (e) Analyse how Admetus's speech conveys the depth of his feelings for Alcestis through his literary art in this extract. Support your answer by quoting the Greek text. [8]

Answer **either** part (a) **or** part (b).

Support your answer with evidence from **one prose** prescribed core text and **at least one** other source.

Either

4. (a) "Greek prose texts represent reality in a way that is believable to the audience." Discuss. [12]

Or

4. (b) Discuss how Greek literary texts deal with the representation of human disgrace. [12]

End of Option B

Option C

Answer **all** parts of the following question based on the provided extract.

Prescribed core text: Prose — Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* 2.51.3–6

- σώμα τε αὐταρκες ὄν οὐδὲν διεφάνη πρὸς αὐτὸ ἰσχύος πέρι ἢ ἀσθενείας, ἀλλὰ πάντα ξυνήρει καὶ τὰ πάση διαίτῃ θεραπευόμενα. δεινότατον δὲ παντὸς ἦν τοῦ κακοῦ ἢ τε ἀθυμία ὁπότε τις αἰσθοίτο κάμνων (πρὸς γὰρ τὸ ἀνέλπιστον εὐθύς τραπόμενοι τῇ γνώμῃ πολλῶ μᾶλλον προΐεντο σφᾶς αὐτοὺς καὶ οὐκ ἀντεῖχον), καὶ ὅτι ἕτερος ἀφ' ἑτέρου θεραπείας ἀναπιμπλάμενοι ὥσπερ τὰ πρόβατα
- 5 ἔθνησκον· καὶ τὸν πλείστον φθόρον τοῦτο ἐνεποίει. εἴτε γὰρ μὴ 'θέλοιεν δεδιότες ἀλλήλοις προσιέναι, ἀπώλλυντο ἐρῆμοι, καὶ οἰκίαι πολλαὶ ἐκενώθησαν ἀπορία τοῦ θεραπεύσοντος· εἴτε προσίοιεν, διεφθείροντο, καὶ μάλιστα οἱ ἀρετῆς τι μεταποιούμενοι· αἰσχύνῃ γὰρ ἠφείδουν σφῶν αὐτῶν ἐσιόντες παρὰ τοὺς φίλους, ἐπεὶ καὶ τὰς ὀλοφύρσεις τῶν ἀπογιγνομένων τελευτῶντες καὶ οἱ οἰκεῖοι ἐξέκαμνον ὑπὸ τοῦ πολλοῦ κακοῦ νικώμενοι. ἐπὶ πλεόν δ' ὅμως οἱ διαπεφευγότες τόν τε
- 10 θνήσκοντα καὶ τὸν πονούμενον ὥκτιζοντο διὰ τὸ προειδέναι τε καὶ αὐτοὶ ἤδη ἐν τῷ θαρσαλέῳ εἶναι· δις γὰρ τὸν αὐτόν, ὥστε καὶ κτείνειν, οὐκ ἐπελάμβανεν. καὶ ἐμακαρίζοντό τε ὑπὸ τῶν ἄλλων, καὶ αὐτοὶ τῷ παραχρῆμα περιχαρεῖ καὶ ἐς τὸν ἔπειτα χρόνον ἐλπίδος τι εἶχον κούφης μὴδ' ἂν ὑπ' ἄλλου νοσήματός ποτε ἔτι διαφθαῖναι.

5. (a) δεινότατον δὲ ... οὐκ ἀντεῖχον (lines 2–4). Outline how hopelessness affected people. Support your answer with **two** quotations from the Greek text. [2]
- (b) καὶ ὅτι ... τοῦτο ἐνεποίει (lines 4–5). Explain what caused the greatest mortality. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [2]
- (c) εἴτε γὰρ ... τι μεταποιούμενοι (lines 5–7). Analyse the dilemma. Support your answer with **four** quotations from the Greek text. [4]
- (d) αἰσχύνῃ γὰρ ... κακοῦ νικώμενοι (lines 7–9). Outline the contrast between the experience of the friends of the plague victims and that of the family of the plague victims. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [2]
- (e) ἐπὶ πλεόν ... ἔτι διαφθαῖναι (lines 9–13). Identify **two** characteristics of those who had survived the plague. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [2]
- (f) Analyse how Thucydides constructs in this extract the different human experiences during the plague through his literary art. Support your answer by quoting the Greek text. [8]

(Option C continues on the following page)

(Option C continued)

Answer **either** part (a) **or** part (b).

Support your answer with evidence from **one verse** prescribed core text and **at least one** other source.

Either

6. (a) To what extent do Greek literary texts use mythological narratives to address contemporary political or social issues? [12]

Or

6. (b) Discuss how the concept of heroism is defined and challenged in Greek verse texts. [12]

End of Option C

Option D

Answer **all** parts of the following question based on the provided extract.

Prescribed core text: Prose — Antiphon, *On the Murder of Herodes* 53–56

- φασὶ δὲ γραμματείδιον εὐρεῖν ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ, ὃ ἔπεμπον ἐγὼ Λυκίνῳ, ὡς ἀποκτείναιμι τὸν ἄνδρα. καίτοι τί ἔδει με γραμματείδιον πέμπειν, αὐτοῦ συνειδότος τοῦ τὸ γραμματείδιον φέροντος; ὥστε τοῦτο μὲν σαφέστερον αὐτὸς ἔμελλεν ἐρεῖν ὁ εἰργασμένος, τοῦτο δὲ οὐδὲν ἔδει κρύπτειν αὐτόν· ἃ γὰρ μὴ οἶόν τε εἰδέναι τὸν φέροντα, ταῦτ' ἂν τις μάλιστα συγγράψας πέμψειεν. ἔπειτα
- 5 δὲ ὅ τι μὲν μακρὸν εἶη πρᾶγμα, τοῦτο μὲν ἂν τις ἀναγκασθεῖη γράψαι τῷ μὴ διαμνημονεύειν τὸν ἀπαγγέλλοντα ὑπὸ πλήθους. τοῦτο δὲ βραχὺ ἦν ἀπαγγεῖλαι, ὅτι τέθνηκεν ὁ ἀνὴρ. ἔπειτα ἐνθυμεῖσθε ὅτι διάφορον ἦν τὸ γραμματείδιον τῷ βασανισθέντι, διάφορος δ' ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῷ γραμματείδιῳ. ὁ μὲν γὰρ βασανιζόμενος αὐτὸς ἔφη ἀποκτείναι, τὸ δὲ γραμματείδιον ἀνοιχθὲν ἐμὲ
- 10 τὸν ἀποκτείναντα ἐμήνυνεν. καίτοι ποτέρῳ χρή πιστεῦσαι; τὸ μὲν γὰρ πρῶτον οὐχ ἡῦρον ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ ζητοῦντες τὸ γραμματείδιον, ὕστερον δέ. τότε μὲν γὰρ οὐπω οὕτως ἐμεμηχάνητο αὐτοῖς. ἐπειδὴ δὲ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ πρότερος βασανισθεὶς οὐδὲν ἔλεγε κατ' ἐμοῦ, τότε εἰσβάλλουσιν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον τὸ γραμματείδιον, ἵνα ταύτην ἔχοιεν ἐμοὶ τὴν αἰτίαν ἐπιφέρειν· ἐπειδὴ δ' ἀνεγνώσθη τὸ γραμματείδιον καὶ ὁ ὕστερος βασανιζόμενος οὐ συνεφέρετο τῷ γραμματείδιῳ, οὐκέθ' οἶόν τ' ἦν ἀφανίσαι τὰ ἀναγνωσθέντα.

7. (a) φασὶ δὲ ... τὸν ἄνδρα (line 1). Outline what the prosecution found on board. Support your answer with **three** quotations from the Greek text. [3]
- (b) καίτοι τί ... γραμματείδιον φέροντος; (line 2). Explain the implication in Euxitheus's question. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [2]
- (c) ὥστε τοῦτο ... ὁ ἀνὴρ (lines 3–6). Identify the three reasons Euxitheus gives to prove that he did not send the note. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [3]
- (d) ὁ μὲν γὰρ ... ἀποκτείναντα ἐμήνυνεν (lines 8–9). Contrast the claims of the slave and the content of the note. Support your answer with **two** quotations from the Greek text. [2]
- (e) ἐπειδὴ δ' ... τὰ ἀναγνωσθέντα (lines 12–14). Explain the miscalculation that the prosecution had made. Quotation of the Greek text is **not** required. [2]
- (f) Analyse how Euxitheus discredits the prosecution through his literary art in this extract. Support your answer by quoting the Greek text. [8]

(Option D continues on the following page)

(Option D continued)

Answer **either** part (a) **or** part (b).

Support your answer with evidence from **one verse** prescribed core text and **at least one** other source.

Either

8. (a) To what extent do Greek literary texts use mythological narratives to address contemporary political or social issues? [12]

Or

8. (b) Discuss how the concept of heroism is defined and challenged in Greek verse texts. [12]

End of Option D

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References:

- Option A** Homer, n.d. *Iliad. Homeri Opera in five volumes*. D. B. Monro and T. W. Allen (eds.) 1920. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Greek/navigate/196/22/> [Accessed 24 April 2025]. Source adapted.
- Option B** Euripides, n.d. *Alcestis, with an English translation by David Kovacs*. D. Kovacs (ed.) 1994. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Greek/navigate/146/1/27/> [Accessed 24 April 2025]. Source adapted.
- Option C** Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Available at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/7142> [Accessed 18 May 2026]. Source adapted.
- Option D** Antiphon n.d. *On The Murder of Herodes*. K. J. Maidment (ed.) 1960. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Greek/navigate/18/1/54/> to <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Greek/navigate/18/1/57/> [Accessed 24 April 2025]. Source adapted.