

Classical Civilisation

Advanced GCE 2750

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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- A1 (a)** He has described various omens and nightmares experienced by Nero, as well as how the emperor reacted when he was informed of the revolt of his armies. Nero procures poison and fails to persuade his bodyguard to help him flee. After contemplating fleeing abroad, he dashes off to Phaon's villa and is terrified by an earthquake on the way. After sneaking into the house, he hears that he has been declared a public enemy and falls into a state of panic.

[AO1 = 10 marks]

- (b)** Reward use of the text. Xerxes is self-confident and arrogant. His address of Demaratus is condescending, and he refuses to believe that the Greek forces are a real threat to his own, showing extreme confidence. He is calm and collected. Many candidates will reflect on his sense of logic and powers of argument.

[AO1 = 6 + AO2 = 9 = 15 marks]

- (c)** Many candidates will choose Suetonius, with his topological approach to his source material, narrative skills and attention to detail. However, many will choose Herodotus, as he is always more interested in characters rather than military details. Xerxes is presented as a well-rounded character, which leads the reader to be interested in his subsequent moves and downfall. Suetonius similarly allows his readers to be drawn into the story, but produces fewer 'likeable' characters.

[AO1 = 6 + AO2 = 14 = 20 marks]

[Quality of Written Communication = 5 marks]

[Total AO1: 22 marks + AO2: 23 marks + AO3: 5 marks = 50 marks]

- A2 (a)** Pericles has replied to the Spartan ultimatum. He described why the people must stick to the decisions already made, has reminded them of what the Spartans have done and the significance of the Megarian decree. He then compared the relative wealth of the Spartan and Athenian sides, with particular emphasis on military capability. Although he does not want to go to war, he admits that it may well be inevitable and must be fought bravely if it occurs.

[AO1 = 10 marks]

- (b)** Both Emperor and Senate are accused of giving into immorality. The aristocracy are forced to humiliate themselves on the stage, and there is little left with which to degrade them. There is inappropriate dancing and singing in the courts and everyone is thinking lustful thoughts. And the nights are worse!

[AO1 = 6 + AO2 = 9 = 15 marks]

- (c)** In Tacitus, the speeches are largely fictional, but are used, as here, to colour our perception of the character of Nero. Candidates may refer to this passage as well as later speeches such as those of Poppaea, when she manipulates Nero with ease, or Seneca, craftily trying to beg for an escape from the horror of Nero's court. They should also discuss the effect on the reader of Pericles' speech as well as the logical and emotional natures of the other speeches in the debate over war in Book One

[AO1 = 6 + AO2 = 14 = 20 marks]

[Quality of Written Communication = 5 marks]

[Total AO1: 22 marks + AO2: 23 marks + AO3: 5 marks = 50 marks]

B3 Answers may include:

- Pericles' role as the creator much Athenian policy, with the respect and admiration of his people;
- the praise Thucydides heaps on Pericles while describing his successors;
- Pericles is presented as a flawless leader, but Thucydides does not show much interest in his character – only his role in events;
- Nero is seen as fundamentally flawed, but occasionally we are allowed sympathy, when we consider his background, including his unconventional relationship with his mother;
- his career is presented in a balanced manner – at least in theory – in actuality, the emphasis is on the outbreak of insurgent immorality;
- the whole court is unlikeable, presenting Nero as head of a corrupt system.

[Total AO1: 22 marks + AO2: 23 marks + AO3: 5 marks = 50 marks]

B4 Answers may include:

- Tacitus' presentation of Nero's character – despite his depravity, it is partially explained by his family background;
- Tacitus gives us an insight to other personalities – Agrippina is given motivation for her actions, and Seneca, Burrus et al are presented as rounded characters with plausible characteristics and motivations;
- Nero's descent into madness and a place beyond all control is sensitively handled as the death of his mother pushes him there, although Tacitus includes many damning comments before them on Nero's character;
- Herodotus' treatment of Xerxes is significant – a sympathetic and interested account of an enemy to Athenian interests;
- both Darius and Xerxes are handled in a way that shows understanding of psychology.

[Total AO1: 22 marks + AO2: 23 marks + AO3: 5 marks = 50 marks]

Each of the four may be championed, but successful answers must give sufficient evidence to substantiate their argument.

- Herodotus tends to handle the supernatural as a matter of interest, but without any special belief. Expect citations of his references to oracles and omens, which do occur in Herodotus' work;
- hybris and nemesis;
- Thucydides has little interest in such matters, and is often limited to referring to Pythian utterances;
- Suetonius uses omens as a tool to help portray his characters. They emphasise times of great import, and suggest divine displeasure with Nero;
- Tacitus uses omens similarly to suggest divine interest in events, and as a tool to presage significant events, such as the destruction of London, and as a narrative device to add atmosphere.

[Total AO1: 22 marks + AO2: 23 marks + AO3: 5 marks = 50 marks]

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