

Classical Civilisation

Advanced GCE 2754

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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Any enquiries about publications should be addressed to:

OCR Publications
PO Box 5050
Annesley
NOTTINGHAM
NG15 0DL

Telephone: 0870 770 6622
Facsimile: 01223 552610
E-mail: publications@ocr.org.uk

- A1 (a)** The Magistrate has come to get money to pay for a timber deal. Having first deplored the vices of women, he and his entourage are verbally bullied by some of the women. He engages unsuccessfully in an *agon* with Lysistrata (she puts forward the Thatcherite argument that if a woman can run the economy of a household she can run the economy of the country and presents the wool metaphor) and is dressed up in a veil and later as a corpse; not surprisingly, he then runs off.

[AO1 = 10 marks]

- (b)** Some elements of the passage are definitely enhanced by a knowledge of ancient Athens eg:
- Eileithyia as goddess of childbirth;
 - Athena commonly portrayed as a warrior;
 - helmet carried round the hearth refers to the ceremony ritually introducing the baby to its household;
 - the Guardian Serpent was said by some to guard the Acropolis;
 - owls nested on the Acropolis and were the sacred bird of Athena and hence of the city;
 - oracles loomed large in Athenian life, often being parodied by Aristophanes;
 - the hoopoe would remind Athenians of the myth of Tereus.

On the other hand there are universal points of humour:

- the instant pregnancy;
- the tapping on the helmet;
- the Third Woman's improvised reason for having the helmet;
- her sexual interpretation of the oracle.

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

- (c)** The assertion is probably too extreme to be fully supported. Lysistrata is clearly determined both in the passage and elsewhere:
- in the passage, dismisses the Third Woman's ploy with 'Nonsense';
 - stops other potential escapees with logical argument (think of your husbands) and the improvised oracle;
 - elsewhere it's her determination that gets the plan off the ground despite some lukewarm responses;
 - she sees off the Magistrate;
 - encourages Myrrhine to deal with Cinesias;
 - gets the delegates to make peace via Reconciliation.

But other women are determined too:

- Lampito signs up to the plan without hesitation;
- Myrrhine successfully 'seduces' her husband;
- Stratyllis and the old women are more than a match for the old men.

However some show less determination:

- Calonice and Myrrhine take some convincing at first;
- some try to escape from the Acropolis with flimsy excuses.

[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)**
- only crooks and rascals speak for the city;
 - people only go to the Assembly for the money;
 - men are fickle – anti-Spartan one day, pro-Spartan the next;
 - so women should run the city;
 - they will do things as they've always done them;
 - mothers are the best people to look after soldiers – and they know all the tricks.

[AO1 = 10 marks]

- (b)**
- some physical comedy – standing up and sitting down, taking off beards, donning and removal of the speaker's wreath;
 - first Woman's cynical view of the men's performance in the real Assembly – and her addiction to that same shortcoming;
 - the failure of the two 'triallists' to avoid obvious slips ('By Persephone' and 'It is my opinion, ladies');
 - the laughable insignificance of the only view expressed by the Second Woman;
 - the customary jibe at an allegedly effeminate member of the audience is neatly incorporated into the scenario.

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

- (c)** It could be argued that Praxagora's modus operandi for dealing with the women is simple. She merely gives the orders as the one in control. Her handling of Blepyrus on the other hand demands quick thinking, subterfuge and clarity of explanation.

With the other women:

- checks they have done the initial preparations (hairy armpits, sunburn, false beards);
- tells them they must be at the Assembly first;
- performs the purification ceremony;
- ridicules the 'triallists' (as in the passage);
- convinces the women with her oratory ('What an excellent speaker that fellow is!').

With Blepyrus:

- explains her absence in the night by claiming that a friend was about to give birth;
- takes his cloak because 'you know how weak and delicate I am';
- takes his shoes and stick so she'll look like him and won't be mugged;
- feigns ignorance of what's happened ('Oh, did the Assembly meet?');
- articulates her 'communist' proposals in detail, rebutting the objections of her husband (and Chremes). Good answers will include some detail here;
- leaves him with the heady prospect of sex on demand.

[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** The dysfunctional characters seem to be primarily:
- Knemon. Good answers must give evidence of his remoteness from society and his misanthropic traits;
 - Sikon. The peripatetic cook who doesn't belong to a family; an expert in manipulation, he shows no respect for Knemon;
 - Getas. The disgruntled servant who acts as a foil to Sikon and who enjoys his revenge on Knemon at the end.

Other characters seem more integrated into society. Good answers will have to mention at least:

- Sostratos. The rather foppish man-about-town who is very conscious of, and content to abide by, the conventions of acquiring a bride;
- Gorgias. The main catalyst for the action, always concerned for the interests of others.

Credit should be given for the mention of other characters and for alternative definitions of how well the characters fit into normal society.

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

- B4** This is a very general question but good answers must discuss both authors and (for high AO1 marks) make detailed references to the three plays.

Aristophanes' comedy is marked by:

- fantastical plots;
- political and contemporary references;
- spectacle;
- slapstick;
- crudity;
- inventive use of language.

By contrast, in Menander we find:

- stock characters;
- limited action on stage;
- simple plot structure;
- unspecific setting.

Candidates will clearly differ in their preferences and will need to give reasons for their choice.

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

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU

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Telephone: 01223 553998

Facsimile: 01223 552627

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