

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
MAY 2017

SUBJECT: CLASSICAL STUDIES
DATE: 24th May 2017
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Answer **ALL** question from Section A and Section B
 Answer **ONE** question from Section C

SECTION A

1. Translate the following sentences into Latin:

- a) They were leading the Roman captives into the barbarian camps.
- b) You (pl.) will fortify the camp with a huge rampart.
- c) War was prepared by the enemies of the city.
- d) I had reported the dangers to the general.
- e) By great wisdom, we avoided the great forces of the Belgians. (15)

2. Translate the following sentences into Greek:

- a) The arms are in the houses of the stewards.
- b) I had set free the arms of the country.
- c) The muses will train the young men in wisdom.
- d) The soldier pursued the sailor to the gate.
- e) By your wise words, you were preventing the battle. (15)

(Total: 30 marks)

SECTION B

3. Read the following passage and answer all the questions:

μη̄νιν ἄειδε θεὰ Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος
 οὐλομένην, ἣ μυρὶ Ἄχαιοῖς ἄλγε' ἔθηκε,
 πολλὰς δ' ἰφθίμους ψυχὰς Ἄϊδι προΐαψεν
 ἠρώων, αὐτοὺς δὲ ἐλώρια τεῦχε κύνεσσιν
 οἰωνοῖσι τε πᾶσι, Διὸς δ' ἐτελείετο βουλή.

- a) What is the name of the work from which the extract is taken, and who composed it? (2)
- b) Who is Ἀχιλῆος? (2)
- c) This extract is from an epic poem. What type of metre is used in classical epic poetry? (2)
- d) Write a short paragraph on the development of epic in Classical Literature. (6)
- e) Translate the extract accurately into English. (18)

(Total: 30 marks)

SECTION C

Answer Question 4 or Question 5

4. Write an essay of **not** less than 600 words on **ONE** of the following topics:

- a) The gods of Classical Mythology often seem frivolous and biased in their dealings with humans. Discuss.
- b) Describe the legacy of Alexander the Great on world history.
- c) To what extent do you think a Roman's lifestyle and prosperity depended on slavery?
- d) *"The safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato."* (A. N. Whitehead)
Why do you think Plato is inseparable from the development of Western civilization?

e) The Peloponnesian War was caused by Spartan fear of Athenian power. Discuss.

f) To what extent do you agree or disagree with this description?

"The story of his career shows that Augustus was indeed ruthless, cruel, and ambitious for himself. [...] But once he had established his authority, he governed efficiently and justly, generally allowed freedom of speech, and promoted the rule of law."

(Adapted from *Augustus: The Life of Rome's First Emperor* by Anthony Everitt)

5. Write an essay of **not** less than 300 words on **TWO** of the following topics:

- a) Knowledge of the Classics is rarely a job requirement. What place can the Classics occupy in today's job market?
- b) What advantages can today's world leaders gain from being educated in the Classics? Discuss.
- c) Many writers, artists and filmmakers make use of their knowledge of the Classics. Discuss at least **TWO** works (art, writing or film), which are clearly based on, or influenced by, the classical world.

(Total: 40 marks)