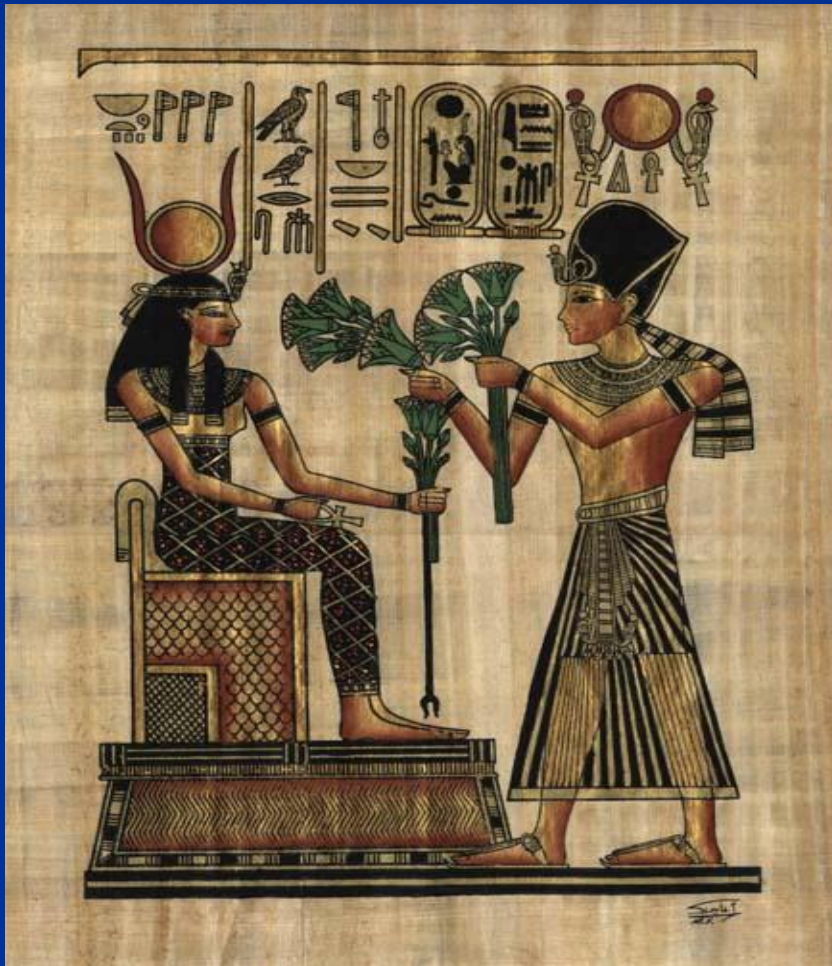


CLCS4009

READING ANTIQUITY: A SURVEY OF ANCIENT LITERATURE



Lecture 31:
Exam Preparation
and Revision

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Some basic advice for the exam...

- Ensure that you know the date, time and location of the exam (write it in your diary etc.)
- Make sure that you arrive on time (early)
- Stay calm
- READ THE EXAM PAPER AND QUESTIONS CAREFULLY AND CALMLY
- PLAN YOUR ANSWERS
- WRITE IN LEGIBLE SCRIPT
- TACKLE ONE SECTION AT A TIME

The Exam (50% of final mark)

- 1 Hour
- Two Sections
- Section One:
 - 1/3 marks (approximately 20 mins)
 - Answer one gobbet out of four
- Section Two:
 - 2/3 marks (approximately 40 mins)
 - Answer one essay question out of four
- Time to choose / edit

Topics for the Exam

- Candidates should ensure that they avoid repetition of their material in their answers to different questions, and between their answers and their coursework essays.
- So revise all topics except the topic which your essay focused on.

Section One (Gobbets)

- Gobbet: Choose 1 of 4
- 1/3 of exam: approximately 20 mins
- Two of the gobbet passages will be extracts from the Greek sources that we have covered.
- Two of the gobbet passages will be extracts from the Roman sources that we have covered.
- Choose any one gobbet (but ensure you do not repeat your essay topic)
- “Comment on the context and content of one of the following passages.”

Answering Gobbet questions (Section One)

- Hints and Tips
- Concentrate on the passage given: what is the essence of the text?
- Think themes/ideas/genre/purpose: why is this passage important a) in and of itself, b) to the text as a whole, c) to the genre?
- Comment critically on the source: **DO NOT BE DESCRIPTIVE.**
- Annotation: comment on the context and content: how does this passage relate to the text as a whole and to any other relevant literary works we have studied?

Section One (Gobbets)

- The gobbet passage will contain:
 - Author, title of work, book number, line numbers (the latter – where applicable)
- READ THE GOBBET CAREFULLY
- DISCUSS: THE CULTURAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT OF THE AUTHOR AND THE POSSIBLE DATING OF THE WORK, THE GENRE OF THE WORK ETC.
- THINK: WHO? WHAT? WHY? IN WHAT CONTEXT?

Section One: Sample Gobbet

This is the display of the inquiry of Herodotus of Halicarnassus, so that things done by man not be forgotten in time, and that great and marvellous deeds, some displayed by the Greeks and some by non-Greeks, not lose their glory, including among others what was the cause of their waging war on each other. According to learned Persians, it was the Phoenicians who caused the conflict. Originally, these people came to our sea from the Red Sea, as it is known. No sooner had they settled in the land they still inhabit than they turned to overseas travel. They used to take Egyptian and Assyrian goods to various places, including Argos, which was at that time the most important state, in all respects, in the country which is now called Greece. Once, then, the Phoenicians came to Argos and began to dispose of their cargo. Five or six days after they had arrived, when they had sold almost everything, a number of women came down to the shore, including the King's daughter, whose name was Io, the daughter of Inachus. These women were standing around the stern of the ship, buying any items which particularly caught their fancy, when the Phoenicians gave the word and suddenly charged at them. Most of the women got away, but Io and some others were captured. The Phoenicians took them on their ship and sailed away for Egypt.

Herodotus, *Histories*, 1.1

Section One: Gobbets

- To see a sample format of Section One of the Exam Paper, see your workshop sheet on Martial and Juvenal – the way in which the gobbets are set out here matches the format of the exam (and the question is the same: “Comment on the context and content of one of the following passages:”)

Section Two (essay question)

- Essay: answer 1 essay question of 4
- 2/3 of exam: approximately 40 mins
- You must ensure that you do not choose questions which will involve the repetition of any significant amount of material from any of your answers in Section One.
- No past paper

Section Two (essay question)

- You will be asked to “write an essay on one of the following titles.”
- What will the essay questions focus on?
- One question will focus on Greek literature
- One question will focus on Roman literature
- Two questions will be comparative: they will ask you to compare and contrast Greek and Roman literature.

Section Two: Sample Question

- Mock Example
- To what extent can the Greek novels be considered second sophistic?
- 1. Pick apart the question.
- 2. Think around the question:
 - What are the sub-questions? / What problems does your thesis face?
- 3. What is your position/thesis?
- 4. Which works/episodes best evidence your argument?

Section Two: Sample Question

- Mock example of a comparative question (asking you to compare Greek and Roman literature):
- Compare and contrast Greek and Roman comedy, discussing at least one example of a Greek comedy and at least one example of a Roman comedy.
- Mock example of a Roman question: Discuss the portrayal of the countryside and rural life in either Virgil's *Eclogues*, Horace's *Epistles* OR Virgil's *Georgics*.

Section Two (essay question)

- You want to persuade your reader that your approach/theory/argument is right. Structure your essay:
- **The Introduction:**
 - Explain what you are going to do and that you understand the question in its entirety: the issues you need to address and any problems standing in your way. Define and discuss key terms. Discuss the literary, cultural and social context (include approximate dating of works where possible).
- **The Proof / Evidence:**
 - Presentation of evidence
 - Reasoning from evidence
 - Main points collated from evidenced reasoning
- **The Conclusion:**
 - Give your reader closure. Summarise your main arguments and approach.

Revision

- Reread your preliminary reading notes.
- Reread those primary sources that you have forgotten. Read them again!
- Reread your lecture notes/powerpoint slides.
- Reread your notes on secondary literature.
- Think about overall themes and tendencies of the genre.
- Make note of key bits of primary literature that best evidence these themes and tendencies.

Revision

- Reread your workshop sheets and seminar handouts: pay particular attention to these.
- Practise writing gobbet answers:
 - Complete the Juvenal / Martial workshop task and post on Moodle. Read the gobbet answers on Juvenal / Martial posted by other students on Moodle.
 - Take any extract (of about 200 words or 2 paragraphs) from powerpoint slides, workshop sheets and seminar handouts and practise writing a gobbet answer.
 - Time yourself: 20 minutes for a gobbet answer.

Revision

- Think about the major themes and ideas in the works and literature we have studied and pick evidence from the works to illustrate these themes.
- Practise writing essays:
 - Take the questions from workshop sheets and seminar handouts and practise writing essays on these questions.
 - Use the sample essay questions in these slides.
 - Use the coursework questions (not the question you completed for your coursework though).
 - Time yourself: 40 minutes to write an essay.

Revision Topics

- Greek Epic
 - Homeric Epic
- Sympotic Poetry
 - Sappho, Alcaeus etc.
- Epinician Poetry
 - Pindar, Bacchylides etc.
- Greek Drama:
 - Tragedy and Comedy
- Greek Speech Writing:
 - Demosthenes, Aeschines, Thucydides
- Greek Historical Writing
 - Herodotus, Thucydides
- Roman Epic
 - Virgil's *Aeneid* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*
- Early Latin Literature
- Roman love elegy:
 - Propertius
- Roman Drama:
 - Comedy
- Roman rhetoric and moralistic discourse:
 - Cicero
- Rural Rome: didactic poetry:
 - Virgil and Horace

Revision Topics

■ Greek Philosophy

- Plato, Aristotle

■ Greek letters and letter collections:

- Plutarch
- Porphyry

■ Greek Religion:

- Porphyry, Pausanias

■ Roman Philosophy

- Lucretius and Epicureanism, Manilius

■ Roman letters and letter collections:

- Cicero, Seneca, Pliny

■ Roman Religion:

- Cicero's *On Divination*, Manilius

Revision Topics

- The Greek and Roman Novel
 - Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*
 - The portrayal of love and magic
 - The Greek Novel
- Other Topics Covered:
- Roman Greece and the Second Sophistic:
 - Plutarch, Lucian, Pausanias
- Roman Poetry in and from city life:
 - Martial, Juvenal

Don't forget...

■ Revision:

- Revise thoroughly: make a revision plan and stick to it. DO NOT cram at the last minute.
- Practice writing gobbet answers and essay questions
- Make sure you read the relevant sources

■ In the Exam:

- Breathe
- Pace yourself
- Evidence

■ Good Luck!



Questions?