

West meets East: At the Borders of the *Oikoumenē* and Beyond

Exam Preparation Session

CLAH6007

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Exam Format

- The Exam is 2 hours long - Split into two parts.
- Section A is Gobbets. Answer three out of a choice of six – worth 1/2 of the total marks.
- Section B consists of four essay questions. Answer one out of a choice of four – worth 1/2 of the total mark.
- It is probably best to spend roughly an hour each on Section A (20 minutes each question) and Section B (whole hour for the essay question).

Section A

Gobbet Passages / Images

- Only texts or images that have appeared in the lecturer slides or workshops will be in the exam - There are no “unseen” passages or images.
- Of the six questions to chose from, three are images and three are passages.
- You have to Analyse the context and content of any combination of three images or passages.

Approaching the Gobbets - Passages

- Identify the key features of the passage and analyse their significance - what actions or individuals are being discussed in the passage?
- Who is the author of the passage? Why is s/he making these comments? Can what is said in the passage be considered reliable (and what factors might influence this)?
- Place this passage in a broader **context** (social/political/historical, as relevant) - Are there any relevant texts or objects which can be meaningfully compared with the Gobbet. Do they conform with or contradict what is in the Gobbet.

Approaching the Gobbets - Images

- A name or description is not provided with the images – you will be rewarded for correctly identifying who or what is the object shown in the image – when was the object commissioned / produced (approximate dates are acceptable when precise dates are not known).
- What is significant about the object, what does it represent? By whom might it have been produced/commissioned and for what purpose?
- What is its broader historical/social/political significance (as appropriate).
- Are there any relevant texts or objects which can be meaningfully compared with the Image?

Section B

Approaching the Essay Questions

- You are not expected to provide footnotes or bibliographic references in the Exam. However, if you are able to remember a theory or interpretation of a scholars and can engage with this in a relevant manner, this is good.
- Try to show your knowledge and grasp of detail but ensure that you are analytical. Try to have coherent arguments directed towards the question.
- Discuss any relevant evidence or examples that support the argument you are trying to make.
- Evaluate the evidence (literary, numismatic, archaeological, as relevant) – do some of the sources appear to provide a differing or contradictory picture? What are the biases or limits of the evidence (ensure that any discussion in this respect relates to the question)?

Themes from the Lectures and Workshops

Theme 1 – Early Contact

- **L:** India in the early Greek imagination
 - Indian as it entered the Greek consciousness; Persians as intermediaries.
- **L:** Alexander the Great and the Conquest of India
 - Conquest and colonisation
 - The creation of a legacy in the Indian subcontinent
 - Alexander and the Indian philosophers



William Hastings - c.1466-70



Theme 2 – Greeks in Bactria and India

- **L:** The Empire of the Maurya
 - The Seleucids and the Maurya
 - Greeks under Indian rule
- **L:** The Graeco-Bactrian kings
 - Rebellion from the Seleucids
 - A Greek kingdom in Afghanistan
 - Ai Khanum
- **W:** Megasthenes
 - Life at Pataliputra
- **L:** The Indo-Greeks
 - Greeks beyond the Hindu Kush
- **L:** The Greek Legacy in Central Asia and Northwest India
 - Nomadic invasions
 - Legacy and adaptation of Greek culture
- **W:** Graeco-Roman Art in Central Asia.



Theme 3 - The Ptolemies

- **L:** Elephant hunting and gold mining
 - Exploiting the Eastern Desert and Red Sea
- **L:** The Ptolemies and the Erythra Thalassa
 - Trade and exploration
 - Voyages to India?
- **W:** Discovery of the Monsoon
 - An ancient Columbus?
 - Eudoxus of Cyzicus and Hippalos.



Theme 4 – The Indian Ocean Trade

- **L:** A new age of globalisation / “oikoumenisation”
 - Nature of the trade
 - Imports and exports
- **L:** Balancing the scales
 - Did Rome suffer a haemorrhage of gold to the East?
- **W:** Merchant Diaspora
 - Indians in the Empire
 - Romans in India – “Yavanas”?
- **L:** The Chronology of the Trade



Theme 5 – The Reception of Rome and India

- **L:** Rome and India in scholarly thought
 - Ethnography, Empires and Commerce
 - Evolution of scholarship
 - Archaeological flourishing
- **W:** British and Roman Empires in India
 - “Greater Rome and Great Britain”
 - Colonial architecture and classicism



The East Offering Its Riches to Britannia" by Spiridione Roma (1778)

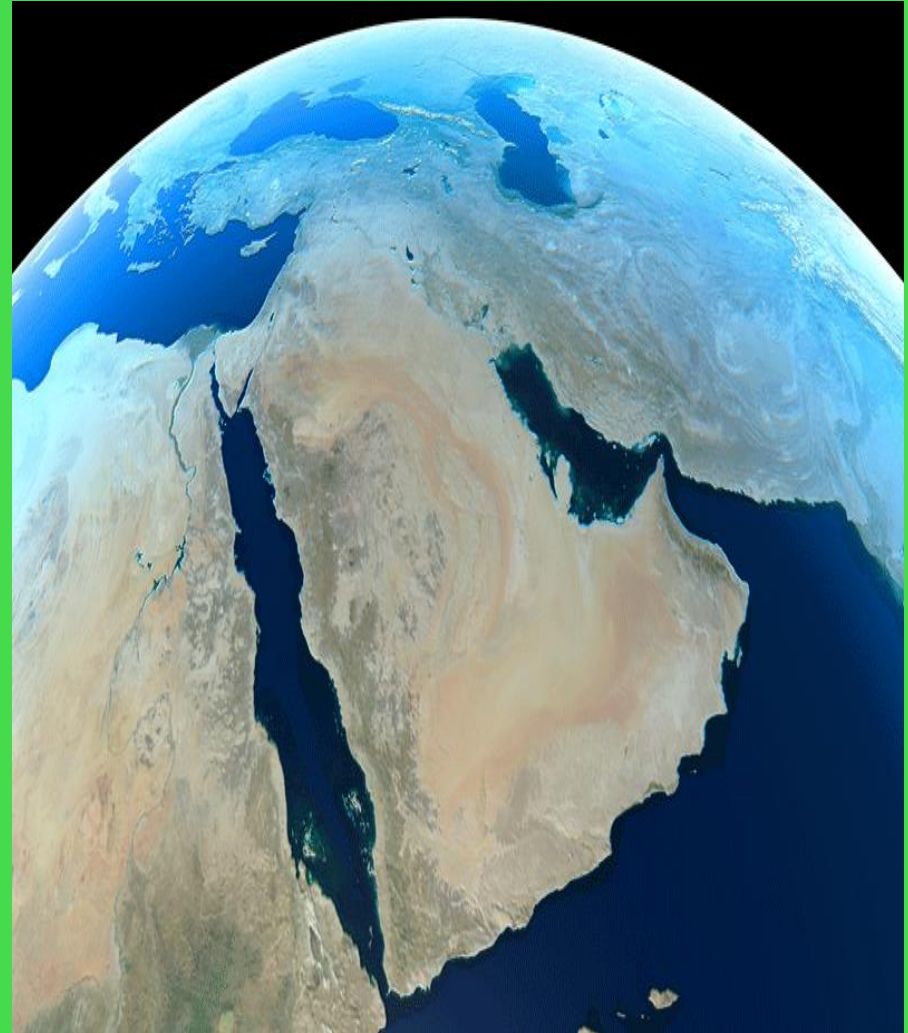
Theme 6 – Indian in the Roman Imagination

- **L:** India in the Graeco-Roman imagination
 - Conception of Indian societies
 - The fantastical and fictitious?
- **L:** Philostratus *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*
 - Magician or Philosopher?
 - The periphery as the centre
- **W:** The fabulous and exotic in Rome
 - Indian goods and Roman society and Moral outrage



Theme 7 – Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf

- **L: Arabia Felix**
 - A land to be conquered
 - The Incense trade
- **L: Palmyra and the Persian Gulf**
 - Between Rome and Parthia
 - Protecting the caravans
 - Destruction



Theme 8 – Christianity in India and Sri Lanka

- **W:** Early Christianity in India
 - St Thomas and India
 - Cosmas Indicopleustes



“The island has also a church of Persian Christians who have settled there, and a Presbyter who is appointed from Persia, and a Deacon and a complete ecclesiastical ritual. But the natives and their kings are heathens...” - **Cosmas Indicopleustes** *Christian Topography* 11.365.

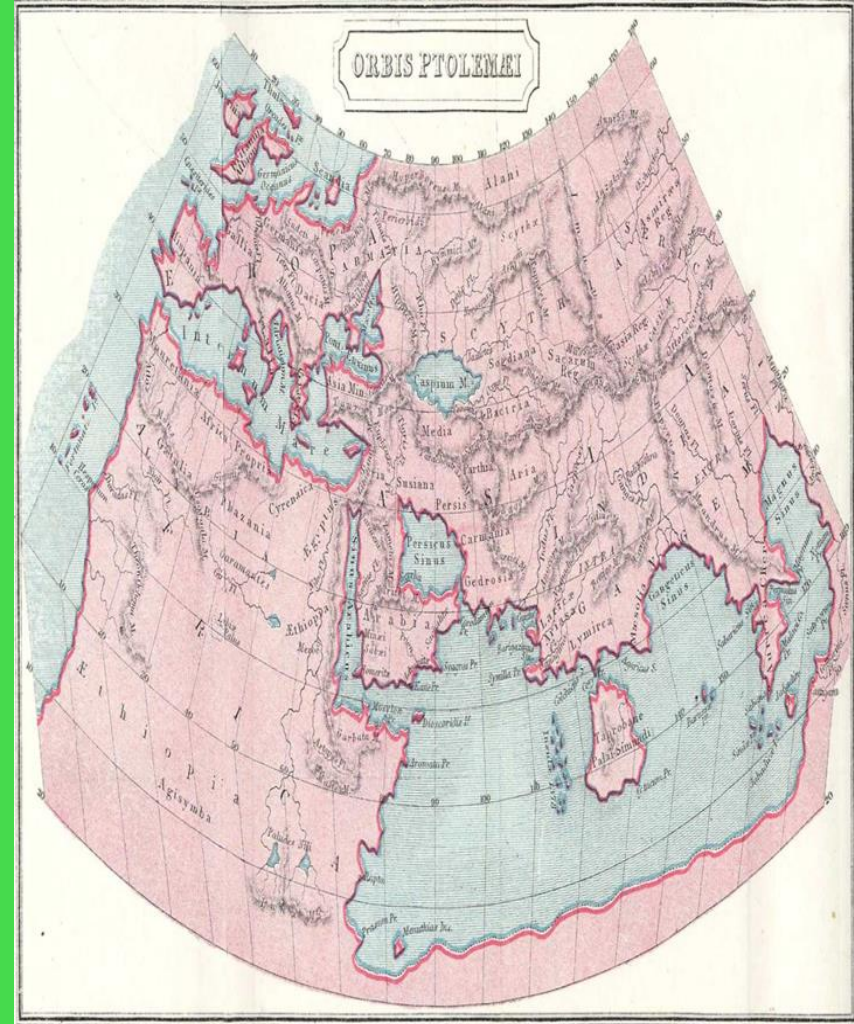
Theme 9 – The Eastern Desert and East Africa

- **L:** The Wild East – Nomads of the Eastern Desert
 - Relations between the Roman military and the indigenous population
- **L:** Rome and East Africa
 - Kingdom of Meroë
 - Kingdom of Axum
 - Wars on the Red Sea
- **W:** “Raft men” – The ancient cinnamon route?



Theme 10 - The Far East

- **L: Serica and the Roman World**
 - Roman embassies to China?
 - The land of Chryse Chersonesos
 - Roman finds in the Far East
- **L: Rome and China compared**



Good Luck!