



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/23

Paper 2 Roman Civilisation

October/November 2025

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Answer questions from **one** section only.
For each section, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has 8 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Augustus

Answer **Question 1** and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions:

Then, O Gods, grant virtuous ways to youth ready to
Learn and tranquillity to gentle elders, and, Gods,
Grant to Romulus' people, prosperity, posterity
And every glory,

And fulfil whatever by sacrifice of white oxen 5
He entreats, the glorious offspring of Anchises
And Venus, vanquisher of those who take up arms,
Mild to the fallen foe.

Now the Mede fears the forces strong by land 10
And sea and the Alban axes; now
The Scythians, so recently arrogant, and the Indians
Seek responses.

(Horace, *Carmen Saeculare*)

- (a) (i) In which year were the Secular Games held? [1]
- (ii) Name **one** of the gods the hymn was dedicated to. [1]
- (iii) Who was Romulus (line 3)? [1]
- (iv) Who was 'the glorious offspring of Anchises and Venus' (lines 6–7)? [1]
- (v) Who were the Medes referred to in line 9? [1]
- (b) 'Augustus was a very religious man.'
Using this passage as a starting point, explain how far you agree with this statement. [20]

[Total: 25]

EITHER

- 2 'Throughout his life, Augustus wanted to be seen as a man of peace, rather than a man of war.'
How far do you agree with this statement? [25]

OR

- 3 How far do you agree that Augustus was an excellent role model for future rulers? [25]

Section B: Virgil's *Aeneid*

Answer **Question 4** and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

4 Read the passage and answer the questions:

Lifting up his voice to the wide expanse of heaven, he cried: 'I call upon you, Hercules of the stock of Alceus, by my father's table and by the friendship he offered you when you came as a stranger to his home, stand at my side now as I set my hand to this great task. May Turnus as he dies see me tear the blood-stained armour off his body, and may the last sight he endures be the face of the man who has defeated him!' Hearing the young warrior, Hercules checked the great groan rising from the depths of his heart and the helpless tears streamed from his eyes. Then Father Jupiter spoke these loving words to his son: 'Each man has his allotted day. All life is brief and time once past can never be restored. But the task of the brave man is to enlarge his fame by his actions. So many sons of gods fell under the high walls of Troy, and with them fell also my son Sarpedon. Turnus too is called by his own destiny and has reached the limits of the time he has been given.' So he spoke and instantly turned his eyes away from the Rutulian fields. 5 10

(Virgil, *Aeneid* 10)

- (a) (i) 'he cried' (line 1). Who is speaking? [1]
- (ii) 'my father's table' (line 2). What is the name of his father? [1]
- (iii) 'the friendship he offered you' (line 2). Give **two** details of the story about Hercules and the speaker's father. [2]
- (iv) 'Turnus too is called by his own destiny' (lines 10–11). Who will kill Turnus? [1]
- (b) Discuss how important the role of Jupiter is in the *Aeneid*. Use this passage as a starting point for your answer. [20]

[Total: 25]

EITHER

- 5 'Turnus is more deserving of the audience's sympathy than Dido.'
How far do you agree with this statement? [25]

OR

- 6 To what extent do you think that the most important relationships shown in the *Aeneid* are those between fathers and sons? [25]

Section C: Architecture of the Roman City

Answer **Question 7** and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

7 Study the plan and answer the questions:

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- (a) (i) Identify the house shown in the plan. [2]
- (ii) In which Italian city is this house located? [1]
- (iii) Identify the room labelled X. [1]
- (iv) Give the name of the area labelled Y. [1]
- (b) How far do you think that a Roman visitor would have been impressed with the layout and decoration of this house? [20]

[Total: 25]

EITHER

- 8 'As a place of entertainment, the design of an amphitheatre was more suitable than the design of a theatre.'
- To what extent do you agree with this statement? In your answer, you should include discussion of specific examples of each type of building. [25]

OR

- 9 'The development of the basic arch was the greatest achievement of Roman architects and engineers.'
- How far do you agree with this opinion? In your answer, you should include discussion of how the Romans developed the basic arch form to build a range of different types of structures. [25]

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