



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2010 HSC Classical Greek Continuers Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answer may include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’, they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Prescribed Text – Herodotus II

Question 2 (a) (i)

Sample answer:

The story is about the young Nasamonian men who had travelled inland across the Libyan desert, where they encountered small dark-skinned people who took them to their city located on a river.

Question 2 (a) (ii)

Sample answer:

This extract is an example of Herodotus' reliance upon hearsay for places beyond those he has visited. In this example the information recorded is third-hand; the Cyrenaeans have told Herodotus what Etearchus told them he had heard from the Nasamonians.

Herodotus, reasoning from the known to the unknown, draws an analogy with the Danube to support Etearchus' identification of the river as the Nile.

Question 2 (b)

Answers could include:

- Herodotus provides a detailed physical description of the hippopotamus without reference to its habits or the attitude of the Egyptians towards it.
- He describes the hippopotamus by relating it to animals familiar to his audience, ie horse and ox.
- Some of the details he provides suggest that he has not seen the animal at close quarters.
- In describing the phoenix, Herodotus states that he has not seen it, so is basing his description on paintings and on what he was told of its habits.
- Herodotus' description of the crocodile offers more extensive detail about this creature's appearance, habits and treatment by the Egyptians.
- The physical description of the crocodile suggests to a modern reader that Herodotus is more likely to have seen the crocodile than the hippopotamus.
- In general Herodotus' descriptions of Egyptian animals appear to be derived more from information given to him than from his own observation.

Question 2 (c) (i)

Sample answer:

This man's father had constructed the king's treasure chamber with a secret access. After the father's death, the man and his brother began to steal from the chamber.

Question 2 (c) (ii)***Sample answer:***

When Rhampsinitus became aware of the thefts, traps were set in the treasure chamber. When his brother was trapped, the thief cut off his head to avoid identification. His mother insisted he recover his brother's body, which the king had displayed under guard. The thief managed to make the guards drunk and recover the body. The king instructed his daughter to question those who visited her about their cleverest, wickedest deed. The thief, after confessing to the daughter, avoided capture by giving her the arm of a corpse. This cunning trick convinced the king that the thief surpassed all men, even Egyptians, in cleverness.

Question 3***Answers could include:***

- Herodotus uses a wide variety of methods to gather information, such as constant travelling which enables him to give an eye-witness account; conversations with locals which provide him with hearsay evidence; honest enquiry, which enables him to record information which he does not believe; consultation of literary sources where available eg Hecataeus, deductive reasoning, to argue by inference and analogy.
- His account of the land and its people is largely based on his own observation, supplemented by eye-witness accounts from other people, where possible, of places he did not visit.
- He uses analogy and inference based on hearsay evidence in discussing the source of the Nile.
- His overall presentation of Egypt, being an amalgamation of all the different methods of gathering information, is of a land of wonder and customs very different from those of the Greeks. His own curiosity and love of a good story lead him to incorporate all of the information into a methodical, well-structured account which is full of fascinating detail.

Section II — Prescribed Text – Aristophanes, *Frogs***Question 5 (a) (i)*****Sample answer:***

This remark breaks the dramatic illusion; Dionysus is appealing for protection to the priest sitting in the front row of the theatre and makes reference to the celebration, which will follow the performance.

Question 5 (a) (ii)***Sample answer:***

Hegelochus was an actor who was infamous for his mispronunciation of the word γαλήν in a performance of Euripides' *Orestes*.

Question 5 (a) (iii)***Sample answer:***

Dionysus is cowardly (line 297), despite his disguise as Heracles. He is so fearful that Xanthias has difficulty in reassuring him and there is a suggestion that he has not retained control of his bowels.

Question 5 (b) (i)***Sample answer:***

Persephone's servant invites Heracles to come indoors. Heracles had previously visited the Underworld and established his reputation for gluttony. Being aware of this, Persephone is preparing a huge feast.

Question 5 (b) (ii)***Sample answer:***

Xanthias and Dionysus have exchanged costumes, so Xanthias, now dressed as Heracles, is addressed by the servant (line 503).

Question 5 (c) (i)***Sample answer:***

Dionysus has specified (line 1380) that this is the signal for Aeschylus and Euripides to let go of the scales.

Question 5 (c) (ii)***Sample answer:***

Aeschylus and Euripides are taking part in a test to judge the merit of their verses by weighing them on weighing-scales. Dionysus, who is judging, consistently acknowledges that Aeschylus' words are weightier.

Dionysus later states that he will take back to Athens the poet who will provide sounder advice for the city. The weightiness of Aeschylus' words here anticipates that Dionysus will judge him able to give the sounder advice.

Question 6***Answer could include:***

- Dionysus sets out for the Underworld with the stated intention of bringing back Euripides.
- Dionysus disguises himself as Heracles to make the journey. The stages of the journey illustrate many comic aspects of this disguise. The encounter with Heracles points out the incongruity of Dionysus' appearance, and his cowardice is played upon in subsequent scenes.

- A complex series of costume exchanges between Dionysus and Xanthias delays the completion of their journey.
- Dionysus' original intention is further delayed by the fact that the recently dead Euripides has challenged Aeschylus for the chair of tragedy in the Underworld. Pluto enlists Dionysus as judge of this dispute.
- Aristophanes finds many opportunities in the ensuing competition to send up tragedy on various levels.
- Despite his original intention to fetch Euripides, at the end of the contest Dionysus decides in favour of Aeschylus on the basis of the advice he can offer for Athens.
- This resolution of the plot is in itself a comic reversal of original expectations, yet linked to serious issues of contemporary politics.

Section III — Unseen Texts

Question 7 (a)

Sample answer:

Passive

Question 7 (b)

Sample answer:

Comparison

Question 7 (d)

Sample answer:

Heracles, Euripides and Cleon have all been the targets of Aristophanes in other plays. Their mention here reminds the audience of the kinds of jokes he has made before, thus raising another laugh.

Question 8 (a)

Sample answer:

Aorist

Question 8 (b)

Sample answer:

Dative



Question 8 (c)

Sample answer:

Genitive absolute

Question 8 (d)

Sample answer:

Subjunctive

Question 8 (f)

Sample answer:

The moral of this story is that a child can have a clearer perception of right and wrong than an adult.