



ANCIENT HISTORY

ATAR course examination 2023

Marking key for Greece

Marking keys are an explicit statement about what the examining panel expect of candidates when they respond to particular examination items. They help ensure a consistent interpretation of the criteria that guide the awarding of marks.

Athens 481–440 BC

Question 15

(6 marks)

Explain in detail the structure and aims of the Hellenic League.

Description	Marks
Explains in detail the structure and aims of the Hellenic League accurately	6
Explains the structure and aims of the Hellenic League in detail	5
Describes the structure and aims of the Hellenic League	4
Describes some aspects of the structure and aims of the Hellenic League	3
Limited description of the structure and/or aims of the Hellenic League	2
Makes minimal reference to the structure and/or aims of the Hellenic League	1
Total	6
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thirty one member states represented by <i>probouloi</i> • all feuds between member states were to be brought to an end • oath taken by all members – bound to one another, probably permanently (VII:132) • Sparta was accepted as leader, with Athens conceding command of the fleet for the sake of unity. Eurybiades leader of the fleet (and overall commander?), Leonidas the land army (later Regent Pausanias). Sparta had final say in councils of war • perhaps each member state had an equal vote. VII:175 ‘The proposal which found most favour’. Decisions would seem to have been decided by majority. <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • members took an oath to punish those Greek states who medised voluntarily by confiscating their land after the wars were over • purpose was to resist the Persians and maintain the freedom of the Greeks. <p>Accept other relevant answers.</p>	

Question 16

(6 marks)

Identify and explain the position of Athens in the Delian League.

Description	Marks
Identifies and explains the position of Athens in the League in detail	6
Identifies and explains the position of Athens in the League in some detail	5
Provides some identification and description of the position of Athens in the League	4
Provides a generalised description of the position of Athens in the League	3
Identifies the position of Athens in the League	2
Provides a superficial comment about the position of Athens in the League	1
Total	6
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athens was hegemon. The form of the League chamber(s) is disputed; Thuc. 1.97 ('who reached their decisions in general meetings') has been taken by some to imply a bi-cameral system, with the allies exercising equal votes in one chamber and Athens, as hegemon, constituting a second chamber. The allies were autonomous, Thuc. 1.96, although this might have been a de facto description rather than a legal requirement • Athens controlled the allied navy and taxed the allies for men and triremes; she also appointed the treasurers • the League was a permanent alliance, acknowledging Athens' permanent leadership, perhaps implying that membership could be a) enforced by Athens and b) could not be rescinded. Candidates may argue that Athens interpreted membership in this way • the treasury was originally housed in the Temple of Apollo and Artemis on the island of Delos, and the meetings of the League took place there. When the treasury was moved to Athens, Athens consolidated their own central financial control. <p>Accept other relevant answers.</p>	

Question 17

(6 marks)

Explain in detail the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies.

Description	Marks
Explains in detail the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies	6
Explains the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies	5
Describes the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies	4
Describes some aspects of the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies	3
Limited description of the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies	2
Makes minimal reference to the importance of cleruchies as a form of control exercised by Athens over its allies. May include errors	1
Total	6
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>Athens benefitted from cleruchies: they relieved population pressures in Athens and were an extension of financial and military strength across the region. Cleruchies were Athenian citizens living in a subject state, holding grants of land given to them by Athens. The financial advantage of being a cleruch encouraged thousands of Athenian citizens to resettle. During the Delian League the cleruchy was a regular form of Athenian imperialism. Athenian cleruchs were placed among local people, but retained full Athenian citizenship, voting, paying taxes, doing military service, and governing their own affairs.</p> <p>Athens used the cleruchies to cripple dependent states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking the best territory • using its members to infiltrate local societies • giving Athens a possible future garrison • cleruchies were placed strategically, for example, Naxos, Samos, Sestos on the Hellespont, providing means of communication for Athens and permanent bases for Athenian fleets. 	
Accept other relevant answers.	

Question 18

(6 marks)

Identify and outline the significance of **two** alliances that helped Athens to establish a Land Empire.

Description	Marks
For each alliance (2 x 3 marks)	
Identifies and outlines the significance of the chosen alliance to the Land Empire	3
Identifies and makes superficial comments about the significance of the chosen alliance to the Land Empire	2
Makes some identification of the chosen alliance to the Land Empire	1
Total	6
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>Athens' alliances with Megara, Argos and Thessaly are detailed by Thuc. Each of these diplomatic initiatives secured Athenian access to: land routes; resources that encouraged the development of a 'Land Empire'; they also undermined Athens' relationship with Sparta and thereby diminished one of the key obstacles to the extension of Athenian power on the mainland. Any two of the following:</p> <p>Argos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> traditionally hostile to Sparta, Argos allied with Athens soon after the return of the Athenian forces from Ithome the Argive alliance gave Athens access to the famed hoplite forces of that polis – a useful addition to the Athenians' own infantry resources thanks to its location, Argos served as a useful buffer for Athens against Sparta, a fact that made it easier for Athens to pursue an expansionist policy in central Greece with less threat of Spartan reprisals. <p>Megara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in 460 Megara allied itself with Athens on account of a frontier dispute with Corinth; Megara received an Athenian garrison, and Athens helped in the construction of Long Walls to link Megara with its port, Nisaea to the extent that the alliance with Megara was a direct affront to Sparta's ally, Corinth, this initiative further signalled the breakdown of relations between Athens and Sparta, and encouraged Athens to pursue its independent aims in central Greece the position of Megara helped to secure Athens against the threat of any armed invasion reprisals from Sparta. <p>Thessaly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> this alliance gave Athens access to the famed Thessalian cavalry, thus strengthening Athens' capacity to wage land battles successfully by providing Athens with a sympathetic ally in central Greece, Thessaly served as something of a counterbalance to the power of Boeotia (which was strongly allied to the Spartans). Thanks to Thessaly, Athens could venture to expand her power in central Greece with a greater chance of success. <p>Accept other relevant answers.</p>	

Question 19

(6 marks)

Identify and explain the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens to the status of a subject state.

Description	Marks
Identifies and explains the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens in detail	6
Identifies and explains the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens in some detail	5
Identifies and describes the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens in some detail	4
Identifies and/or describes the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens in a generalised way	3
Identifies the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens in a limited way	2
Makes superficial comments about the reasons for the reduction of Samos by Athens. May include errors	1
Total	6
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>By the late 440s Samos was one of the few remaining autonomous ship suppliers. Its reduction to phoros paying subject ally indicated that Athens would not tolerate opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samos and Miletus came into conflict over Priene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Miletus, having lost, appealed to Athens for help ▪ Samos refused arbitration by the Athenians. • Athens sailed to Samos with 40 ships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ set up a democracy ▪ took 50 boys and 50 men to Lemnos as hostages ▪ left a garrison in Samos. • The Samians sought assistance from Persia who facilitated the Samians hiring a mercenary army to rescue the hostages. • The Samians defeated the democracy, captured the garrison and sent the Athenian officials to Persia. • Byzantium followed Samos' example and revolted from Athens, forcing Athens to exert control over her allies. • The Spartans had most likely agreed to come to the aid of Samos and assist them in the war against Athens. (Thuc. I:41), but this support did not eventuate. • A difficult campaign led to Samos' defeat in 439. Athens: confiscated their fleet; tore down their walls; took hostages; forced them to pay indemnity. <p>Accept other relevant answers.</p>	

Section Two: Source analysis – Unit 4

25% (20 Marks)

Athens, Sparta and the Peloponnesian War 440–404 BC

Question 20

(10 marks)

Evaluate the extent to which the source contributes to our understanding of Athenian strategy in the Archidamian War after 425 BC.

Refer to the source and to your understanding of the period of study in your answer.

Description	Marks
Makes a comprehensive evaluation of the contribution of the source to our understanding Athenian strategy in the Archidamian War after 425 BC. Shows thorough understanding of the source and makes detailed reference to the period of study	9–10
Makes an appropriate evaluation of the contribution of the source to our understanding of Athenian strategy in the Archidamian War after 425 BC. Shows understanding of the source and makes reference to the period of study	7–8
Makes a generalised evaluation of the contribution of the source to our understanding of Athenian strategy in the Archidamian War after 425 BC. Shows adequate understanding of the source and makes generalised reference to the period of study	5–6
Makes a limited assessment of the contribution of the source to our understanding of Athenian strategy in the Archidamian War after 425 BC. Shows some understanding of the source and makes limited reference to the period of study	3–4
Makes a superficial assessment of the contribution of the source to our understanding of Athenian strategy in the Archidamian War after 425 BC. Shows little understanding of the source and makes little or no reference to the period of study. May include errors	1–2
Total	10
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>Events in 425 BC were a turning point in the war. Kagan attributes this change to military success. Changes to leadership were more important, i.e. Cleon, Demosthenes, Hippocrates and Lamachus were more aggressive and wanted to take the initiative and win the war. However, more conservative elements remained in leadership, i.e. Nicias, Nicostratus, Autocles and Thucydides (author) who opposed more aggressive strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to Athenian strategy, and potentially Spartan strategy, where relevant. Spartan surrender was unheard of, thus the success at Pylos was perhaps the most important of Athens' victories in the Archidamian War. The course of the war altered thereafter. • Answers should not simply recount events in 425 or those that follow. The source implies that Athens was energised by their victories, assessment of this point of view should form a central focus in a strong argument. Other interpretations are possible, and candidates may agree with the perspective of the source or not. The only requirement of a good answer is that the perspective of the source is evaluated using relevant supporting evidence. Evidence from ancient and/or modern sources and from the historical narrative may be used to support discussion in answers. 	

Question 20 (continued)

Evaluating the source:

- after Pylos, Sparta called for an armistice. They also immediately sent an embassy to Athens to negotiate a general peace which would include the Peloponnesian fleet and all the Laconian ships being handed over to Athens for the period of the armistice. This may indicate there was a group in Sparta who believed the war could not be won. The hostages taken at Pylos and Sphacteria were a military and political Achilles heel for Sparta and Athens sought to capitalise on their advantage
- the peace offered to Athens seems to have been based on maintaining the status quo. Athens tried to improve the terms, rejecting Sparta's offers. The Spartans returned home and asked for the return of her fleet. Athens refused. The armistice ended, but so did Spartan naval activity for the remainder of this phase of the war. The loss of their fleet was significant
- Cleon's successful campaign on the island had demonstrated Spartan fallibility
- 424 BC saw no invasion of Attica by Sparta
- Aristophanes' *Knights* records the confidence in Athens in 424, their demands for increased allied tribute at the time support this
- additionally, Athenian campaigns were vigorous, examples might be offered i.e. Cythera, raids along the coast of Laconia, dispossessed Aeginetans being captured and executed in the Cynurian borderland, revolt was fomented in Megara though foiled by Brasidas, Nisaea was captured, plus Demosthenes (ill-fated) attack on Boeotia
- the death of Cleon at Amphipolis led to peace, with Athens under the leadership of the conservative Nicias.

Campaigns were an extension of Athens' (Pericles') original strategy. Stronger candidates are likely to be cautious of accepting Thucydides' view that leaders after Pericles carried out policy that directly opposed Pericles policies (II:65). Accept relevant evidence supporting an argument for continuation of policy, i.e. Athenian strategy was primarily defensive, with exceptions: attack Spartan fleets; carry out seaborne raids on enemy territory; occupy enemy territory in retaliation for the same; attack the Megarid.

Spartan action affected Athenian strategy. Brasidas' rescue of Megara in 424 indicates Spartan recovery after 425. A number of points could be used to argue that the Spartan response prevented some of the more 'militant' elements of Athens' strategy referred to in the source, ultimately forcing peace in 421. Revolt was occurring among the Athenian allies, allowing leverage for Spartan gain, i.e. Scione whose 'defection' from Athens was so close to the time of the armistice that Brasidas' refusal to give it up incited fury in Athens. Athens was perhaps advantaged by Spartan leadership being divided into those who sought peace and those who didn't which may have weakened their progress and response to Athens.

Accept other relevant answers.

Question 21

(10 marks)

Assess the representation of Thucydides' portrayal of Cleon in the source.

Refer to the source, to your understanding of the period of study, and to other evidence and/or examples of Cleon's actions in the Archidamian War in your answer.

Description	Marks
Makes a comprehensive assessment of the representation of Thucydides' portrayal of Cleon in the source. Shows thorough understanding of the source, makes detailed reference to the period of study and to other evidence and/or examples of Cleon's actions in the Archidamian War	9–10
Makes an appropriate assessment of the representation of Thucydides' portrayal of Cleon in the source. Shows understanding of the source and makes reference to the period of study and to other evidence and/or examples of Cleon's actions in the Archidamian War	7–8
Makes a generalised assessment of the representation of Thucydides' portrayal of Cleon in the source. Shows adequate understanding of the source and makes generalised reference to the period of study and to some other evidence and/or examples of Cleon's actions in the Archidamian War	5–6
Makes a limited assessment of the representation of Thucydides' portrayal of Cleon in the source. Shows some understanding of the source and makes limited reference to the period of study or to other evidence and/or examples of Cleon's actions in the Archidamian War	3–4
Makes a superficial assessment of the representation of Thucydides' portrayal of Cleon in the source. Shows little understanding of the source and makes little or no reference to the period of study or to other evidence and/or examples of Cleon's actions in the Archidamian War. May include errors	1–2
Total	10
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>There is a negative source tradition regarding Cleon extending outside Thucydides' account. The source acknowledges that Cleon is much maligned by Thucydides. Examination of the evidence has therefore divided historians' opinions of Cleon. The source (Powell) does not accept Thucydides' account. Candidates may accept and/or refute the source's interpretation of Thucydides and/or the reliability of Thucydides account. The requirement for a good answer is that they do so using appropriate evidence (from the narrative and/or from ancient/modern sources).</p> <p>Why Thucydides might represent Cleon so negatively is widely debated. Several ideas include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thucydides revered Pericles and Pericles' policies, he therefore disapproved of subsequent leaders believing the war was lost as a result of the departure from Pericles' plan • Thucydides disapproves of democracy (and by association the demagogues) tracing its fall into dysfunction after 429 • Cleon was responsible for the exile of Thucydides • Cleon was disgraceful – this idea is a result of denigration of Cleon by his other contemporary, Aristophanes. However, Aristophanes admits to a personal grudge against Cleon, thus his account is also questionable • The debate between Nicias and Cleon before Pylos is a good example of where the narrative is shaped by Thucydides to demonstrate Cleon's base nature and violent temperament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thucydides may/may not have been present in Athens during the Pylos Sphacteria debate in the Assembly. It is unclear to what extent he either accurately or completely records what he witnessed (if he was present). Cleon's success at Pylos and Sphacteria is represented as an accident of fate. This section of the narrative might also be seen as part of Thucydides' construction of his wider view of the causes for 	

Question 21 (continued)

Athens' overall defeat, including his belief in the demagogues' mistaken departure from Pericles' policy

- Thucydides reports to know what Cleon was thinking at several points in his narrative. Clearly this is problematic even if Thucydides was at the debate regarding Pylos, but it allows Thucydides to demonstrate considerable anti-Cleon bias
- Cleon is represented as cowardly before accepting the offer of Command from Nicas in 425. This picture of Cleon is hardly commensurate with his performance at Sphacteria (or during the later Thraceward campaigns), where he is decisive, crafts successful strategy and manages what is arguably one of the biggest military coups of the period
- the victory on Sphacteria is represented by Thucydides as a result of a number of turns of good luck
- despite the significant success of the campaign, Cleon's success is represented as unexpected: 'Cleon kept his promise however mad he had been to have made it'.

Other evidence/events include but are not limited to:

- the Mytilenean debate. Cleon's policy is deplored by Thucydides, for its departure from the policies of Pericles and its brutality
- Amphipolis. Cleon is represented as a mediocre general, incompetent, indecisive, overconfident, and cowardly by turns
- Aristophanes. Claims Cleon was corrupt and blackmailed the allies and prominent Athenians and embezzled public funds (*Knights*, *Acharnians* and *Wasps*)
- Plutarch. Represents Cleon as vulgar and audacious, lacking modesty and self control, irresponsible and greedy
- Aristotle: Claims Cleon brought about the ruin of the Athenians through his wild schemes, framing his oratory as brash, crude and inappropriate.

The Thoudippos decree c.425/4: may be attributed to Cleon. It raised the level of allied tribute, which has been viewed diversely as:

- a visionary policy by Cleon since it provided vital economic revision at a time when extra income was sorely needed by Athens after the funds put aside by Pericles had all but run out
- it has been criticised as poor politicking because of its potential to incite greater allied discontent.

Accept other relevant answers.

Question 22

(10 marks)

Assess the perspective provided in the source on the impact of the terms of, and alliances affected by, the Peace of Nicias.

You should refer to the source and draw upon your understanding of the wider context of events in the Archidamian War in your answer.

Description	Marks
Makes a comprehensive assessment of the perspective provided in the source on the impact of the terms of, and alliances affected by, the Peace of Nicias. Shows thorough understanding of the source, makes detailed reference to the wider context of events in the Archidamian War	9–10
Makes an appropriate assessment of the perspective provided in the source on the impact the terms of, and alliances affected by, the Peace of Nicias. Shows understanding of the source and makes reference to the wider context of events in the Archidamian War	7–8
Makes a generalised assessment of the perspective provided in the source on the impact of the terms of, and alliances affected by, the Peace of Nicias. Shows adequate understanding of the source and makes generalised reference to the wider context of events in the Archidamian War	5–6
Makes a limited assessment of the perspective provided in the source on the impact of the terms of, and alliances affected by, the Peace of Nicias. Shows some understanding of the source and makes limited reference to the wider context of events in the Archidamian War	3–4
Makes a superficial assessment of the perspective provided in the source on the impact of the terms of, and alliances affected by, the Peace of Nicias. Shows little understanding of the source and makes little or no reference to the wider context of events in the Archidamian War. May include errors	1–2
Total	10
<p>Answers could include:</p> <p>The extract focuses on the role of the allies in the breakdown of the Peace. Factors, such as the impact of Alcibiades and/or the Athenian demos, might be considered.</p> <p>Arguments/evidence supporting the perspective about the importance of the allies in breaking the Peace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other groups affected by the peace were just as unhappy as the Athenians • nothing in the treaty for Megara and Corinth (key Spartan allies), nor were they part of the negotiations. They refused to ratify it, as did Boeotia and Elis • Corinth was the least satisfied with the Peace. They had pushed Sparta to go to war, yet none of their grievances of 431 had been removed; Potidaea was still in Athenian hands; Corcyra remained allied to Athens; Megara was intimidated by the Athenians holding the port of Nisaea; They had not had Sollium and Anactorium returned to them • Sparta had not received Pylos and Cythera • all of this led to new alliances being formed, the Peloponnesian allies (led by Corinth) formed an unofficial alliance with Argos (Sparta's enemy) • Nicias' leadership in Athens was undermined by these events • in reality, his peace had only brought peace with Sparta – Athens was still technically at war with Corinth, Megara and Boeotia • allowed aggressive pro-war politicians, such as Alcibiades in Athens and pro-war Ephors in Sparta to emerge (V:36). 	

Question 22 (continued)

Other evidence – Alcibiades and the Demos:

According to Plutarch, Alcibiades felt slighted by the Spartans when they negotiated the Peace of Nicias with Nicias rather than him (he was the Spartan proxenos) and was jealous of Nicias' reputation due to this peace (Pl: Alc 14). Alcibiades also attacked the Spartan alliance as insincere – they would turn on Athens after they had dealt with Argos and therefore an alliance with Argos was a better option for Athens. Resultantly, Alcibiades:

- sought to break off the Peace of Nicias. (Elected strategos in 420 BC)
- when Sparta allied with Boeotia, Nicias' policy was vulnerable and Alcibiades took the opportunity to attack
- he secretly encouraged Argos (with Elean and Mantinaean ambassadors) to come to Athens to conclude an alliance; This prevented an imminent Spartan Argive alliance; the Spartan embassy to Athens to prevent this Athenian Argive alliance was tricked by Alcibiades and thus embarrassed in front of the Athenian assembly
- he used the anger of the Athenians, when Nicias' negotiations with Sparta to end their alliance with Boeotia failed, to conclude the treaty with Argos, Mantinaea and Elis – this was a major triumph for Alcibiades
- mid 419 BC, Alcibiades marched a mainly Athenian army through the Peloponnese to join up with Argos – an audacious act against the Spartans
- initiated the Athenian Argive attack on Epidaurus in 419 BC
- sent as an ambassador to Mantinaea in 418 but arrived too late to get involved
Persuaded the Argive assembly to reject the truce made with Agis not to fight and renew hostilities – successful. Thus the battle of Mantinaea 418 BC ensued
- he tried to maintain links with Argos after Mantinaea, encouraging the building of walls down to the sea and attempting an alliance as strategos in 417 BC.

Accept other relevant answers.

Section Three: Essay

50% (50 Marks)

Part A: Unit 3

25% (25 marks)

Athens 481–440 BC

Marking key for Questions 23–25

Description	Marks
Introduction	
Defines the focus of the topic/question, defines key terms and provides relevant background information. Provides a proposition that articulates the direction of the essay in terms of line of argument/viewpoint	3
States the topic/question and provides some relevant background information. Provides a simple proposition indicating direction to be taken in relation to the focus of the essay	2
States the topic/question and provides limited background information	1
Subtotal	3
Understanding of historical narrative/context	
Produces a relevant, sophisticated narrative that demonstrates an understanding of the interrelationships between events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or reliability of the ancient evidence	7
Produces a relevant, comprehensive narrative that demonstrates an understanding of the relationships between events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or reliability of the ancient evidence	6
Produces a relevant, coherent narrative that demonstrates an understanding of some connections across events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or reliability of the ancient evidence	5
Produces a narrative that identifies some connections across events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change in the narrative, and/or shows some understanding of the reliability of the ancient evidence in the narrative	4
Produces a simple narrative which is mainly chronological and makes some reference to events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or shows limited understanding of the ancient evidence	3
Produces a simple narrative which is often incorrect and makes minimal reference to events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or demonstrates minimal understanding of the relevant ancient evidence	2
Makes general/superficial statements about the narrative	1
Subtotal	7
Argument	
Constructs a sustained, logical and sophisticated argument which shows a depth of analysis in relation to the topic/question	6
Constructs a coherent, analytical argument in relation to the topic/question	5
Produces a logically-structured argument that shows some analytical thinking in relation to the topic/question	4
Provides relevant points/information in relation to the topic/question and indicates direction for argument	3
Makes generalisations and some relevant statements in relation to the topic/question	2
Makes superficial, disjointed statements in relation to the topic/question	1
Subtotal	6
Use of evidence	
Uses relevant sources with accuracy and detail throughout the essay. Refers to this evidence at points where it provides support for the argument/viewpoint	6
Uses relevant sources with accuracy throughout the essay. Refers to this evidence at effective points to provide some support for the argument/viewpoint	5
Uses relevant sources in the essay. Refers to this evidence at some appropriate points	4
Provides some relevant evidence. Refers to this evidence but with inaccuracies	3
Provides some limited evidence with inaccuracies. Makes an attempt to refer to some of this evidence	2
Provides minimal evidence which is often irrelevant or inaccurate	1
Subtotal	6
Conclusion	
Draws together the argument/viewpoint of the essay, linking evidence presented with the original proposition	3
Summarises the argument/viewpoint of the essay, making some reference to the topic/question	2
Makes general/superficial statements about the focus of the essay	1
Subtotal	3
Total	25

Question 23

(25 marks)

Evaluate the proposition that Athens was responsible for the victory of the Greeks during the Persian War 480–478 BC.

Answers could include:

- the Battle of Marathon resulted in a Greek victory – an Athenian victory – which shocked the Persians. The Spartans arrived too late for the battle
- Athenian prestige was greatly enhanced
- the Persians were now more determined to invade Greece and punish Athens
- despite Sparta's absence from the battlefield, Sparta was seen as the natural leader of the Greek forces
- the Athenian Themistocles became an extremely important influence in Athens in the decade following Marathon
- the size of Xerxes' invasion force illustrates the odds that were faced by the Greeks to highlight the role played by Athens
- the Congress at the Isthmus in 481 agreed on the military response to the Persian threat – the Hellenic League was formed with a fleet, which included Athenian ships, under command of the Spartan Eurybiades and an army under the command of the Spartan King Leonidas
- the massive size of the Persian invasion force (according to Herodotus) of a naval force of over 517,610 men, an army of 1,700,000 men, as well as 80,000 cavalry and a further 2,641,610 men from Asia- modern sources put the figure closer to 200,000 men
- the League's commanders realised the impossible task they faced
- Thermopylae in 480 BC was the first important battle between the Persians and the Greeks. The extraordinary stand the Spartans took against the Persians is an important event that has been subsequently viewed as symbolic self-sacrifice by Sparta
- the Peloponnesians constructed a wall across the isthmus, abandoning northern Greece to its fate
- the Athenians saw this as an act of betrayal and Themistocles persuaded the Greeks to abandon their homes/land and put their faith in the 'wooden wall' (Herodotus V11.142), the Athenian navy
- the naval battle at Salamis in September 480 was a consequence of Themistocles' manipulation of events in the face of Corinthian taunts that he was 'a man without a city'
- the devastating destruction of Xerxes' naval power at Salamis virtually destroyed any hope he had of conquering Greece and emphasised the importance of Athens' contribution to the conflict
- the Battle of Plataea in the summer of 479 ended the Persian threat through a complete rout of Xerxes' remaining armies – the main credit for this victory goes to Sparta and Tegea. Thus Xerxes' dream of capturing mainland Greece was decisively ended
- the Greeks took the war to the eastern side of the Aegean – the Spartan King Leotychidas commanded a fleet which sailed to Delos, then via Samos it sailed to Mycale where the Persian ships had been beached
- Leotychidas' forces had been divided into two groups – a larger one made up mainly of Athenians as well as troops from Corinth, Sicyon and Troezen and a smaller group of Spartans
- the Persian forces were humiliatingly defeated – the Persian threat had decisively ended. Throughout, Athens' had played a key role in the defeat of Xerxes
- Athens was not the sole author of victory in 478, but their contribution to the victory vastly increased both their prestige and confidence. The Athenian victory at Marathon in 490, the Athenian decision to build a formidable navy, the Battle of Salamis and a key role at the Battle of Mycale all massively reduced the threat from Persia.

Accept other relevant answers.

Question 24

(25 marks)

Identify and discuss the reasons for the formation of the Delian League c. 478 BC.

Answers could include:

Persian threat:

- Persian war recently ended
- Ionian states were still under threat
- Eion and Eurymedon demonstrate that the Persians were still a presence in the Aegean.

Spartan disinterest (Thucydides is the source for these points):

- Thucydides says they were burdened with the war (distance, type of warfare required; domestic concerns with helots, Tegea, Mantinaea etc.), and that they had a conservative and inward-looking nature
- corruption of Spartan officials overseas (Pausanias, Leotychidas)
- Athenians perfectly capable (navy, reputation from the Peloponnesian Wars)
- Thucydides states Sparta was 'friendly with the Athenians' (did not see Athens as a threat)

These points from Thucydides refer to Athens taking over leadership of the Hellenic League, which then led Athens to form the Delian League soon after.

Ionian/Athenian links

- kinship
- previous support: Ionian revolt 499; Mycale and Sestos 478/7; support to bring them into the league after Mycale – Conference at Samos (rejected by Sparta)
- behaviour of Pausanias (both Athenian and Ionian soldiers must have been subject to the same treatment)
- Plutarch, Herodotus and Thucydides agree that the Ionians approached Athens to lead them.

Athenian interests (benefits to Athens)

- increasing prestige (seen as the liberators of the Hellenes)
- wealth (phoros, compensation (stated aim))
- trade opportunities
- military buffer zone
- rival to Peloponnesian League
- Themistocles was a leading man in Athens and had prepared for war with Sparta.

Accept other relevant answers.

Question 25

(25 marks)

Explain the reforms of Ephialtes and Pericles and assess the impact of these reforms on Athens and its people.

Answers could include:

A detailed explanation of the reforms and their impact. Consider the impact across society, perhaps including commentary about impact on those who were excluded from the reforms.

- Plutarch states that during Cimon's absence, Ephialtes and Pericles had been discrediting the Areopagus to weaken it before moving directly against it.
- the nine Archons were elected by sortition but, only from *pentacosimedimnoi* and *hippeis* – therefore shaping membership of the Areopagus.
- the Areopagus controlled: Appointment and supervision of public officials; Control of city affairs; Defence of the constitution; Religious matters.
- Ephialtes moved all political powers to either the Boule, Ecclesia or Heliaea. Religious powers were left with the Areopagus.
- up to 462, the Areopagus carried out the dokimasia (examination of suitability for office) for public officials including archons and strategoi. It also had the right to supervise officials during the term of office and to conduct the euthuna at its conclusion. This gave the Areopagus significant influence over the direction and implementation of Athenian policy. Ephialtes moved these powers to the demos, facilitating significant empowerment of the demos.
- Dokimasia for archons went to the Boule, for other citizens this went to the Heliaea. Members of the Boule itself were examined by the outgoing Boule.
- ongoing supervision of officials was undertaken by the Boule for matters that were punishable by a fine of 500 drachmas or less. More serious matters were dealt with by the Heliaea.
- all officials were also now to be subjected to euthuna by new boards of the Boule – the 10 euthunoi (auditors) and 30 logistae (accountants).
- the key impact on Athens and its people is that all officials were now accountable to elected bodies of Athenian citizens for their actions.
- the Areopagus previously had extensive judicial powers over the behaviour of Athenian citizens, who could be fined with no reason needed to be given for their punishment. Ephialtes' reforms made Athenians individually responsible for bringing actions before the Heliaea, making the process open, transparent and democratic.
- the Areopagus had also exercised the first right to consider eisangelia (charges of activity against the state), the process of impeachment – deciding if a prosecution was warranted to be heard by the Heliaea or the Ecclesia. This power to consider eisangelia was removed and given to the Boule. The people were now better protected against this significant power.
- Pericles introduced payment for jurors making the role accessible to most. Choosing Archons and other minor officials was also to be done by lot thereby significantly affecting the make-up of the Areopagus.
- to protect all the benefits of democracy, Pericles also introduced a decree introducing citizenship restrictions.

Impact

- After the death of Ephialtes, Athenian Democracy reached its full height under Pericles.
- Democratic processes at this time were unique in the ancient world and resulted in greater investment and connection of Athenian citizens in/with the government of their polis.
- There were exclusions nonetheless, such as women/slaves/metics/the young/*thetes*/limits of citizenship.
- Universal suffrage for adult males existed, and they had the right to stand for office.
- All magistrates were elected by popular vote or by sortition which was controlled by the people, therefore accountability was now with the demos.

- Some issues existed with accessibility to country dwellers.
- Overall, men could now serve in all parts of the government, vote on all matters in the assembly, sit on a jury and be paid for their involvement.
- Democracy was valued by the Athenians and their city pride and involvement in government affairs was a badge they wore in honour.
- For some in the aristocracy including Thucydides and Cimon, some of these changes were too radical. Thucydides said it led to poor decisions and complained about radical democracy. Cimon made a failed (unwise) attempt to hold back change – leading to his being ostracised. Ostracism was used on several occasions as a (somewhat blunt) tool of the democracy.
- The Oligarchic revolt of 411 demonstrated that oligarchic sentiment was still evident, indicating that for some the impact of the reforms was not welcome.
- Democratic process/beliefs provide stark contrast to Athens' imperialism.
- The demos became very powerful. This provided opportunity for demagogues who realised the potential to harness this power.
- Overall, there were a number of exclusions but the democratic reforms of Ephialtes and Pericles gave the demos considerable power, reduced the power of the aristocracy, engaged all citizens in governance but also made a popular support base available that at times, according to Thucydides, led Athens to be susceptible to 'the whims of the multitude'.

Accept other relevant answers.

Part B: Unit 4

25% (25 marks)

Athens, Sparta and the Peloponnesian War 440–404 BC

Marking key for Questions 26–28

Description	Marks
Introduction	
Defines the focus of the topic/question, defines key terms and provides relevant background information. Provides a proposition that articulates the direction of the essay in terms of line of argument/viewpoint	3
States the topic/question and provides some relevant background information. Provides a simple proposition indicating direction to be taken in relation to the focus of the essay	2
States the topic/question and provides limited background information	1
Subtotal	3
Understanding of historical narrative/context	
Produces a relevant, sophisticated narrative that demonstrates an understanding of the interrelationships between events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or reliability of the ancient evidence	7
Produces a relevant, comprehensive narrative that demonstrates an understanding of the relationships between events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or reliability of the ancient evidence	6
Produces a relevant, coherent narrative that demonstrates an understanding of some connections across events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or reliability of the ancient evidence	5
Produces a narrative that identifies some connections across events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change in the narrative, and/or shows some understanding of the reliability of the ancient evidence in the narrative	4
Produces a simple narrative which is mainly chronological and makes some reference to events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or shows limited understanding of the ancient evidence	3
Produces a simple narrative which is often incorrect and makes minimal reference to events, people and ideas, and/or continuity and change, and/or demonstrates minimal understanding of the relevant ancient evidence	2
Makes general/superficial statements about the narrative	1
Subtotal	7
Argument	
Constructs a sustained, logical and sophisticated argument which shows a depth of analysis in relation to the topic/question	6
Constructs a coherent, analytical argument in relation to the topic/question	5
Produces a logically-structured argument that shows some analytical thinking in relation to the topic/question	4
Provides relevant points/information in relation to the topic/question and indicates direction for argument	3
Makes generalisations and some relevant statements in relation to the topic/question	2
Makes superficial, disjointed statements in relation to the topic/question	1
Subtotal	6
Use of evidence	
Uses relevant sources with accuracy and detail throughout the essay. Refers to this evidence at points where it provides support for the argument/viewpoint	6
Uses relevant sources with accuracy throughout the essay. Refers to this evidence at effective points to provide some support for the argument/viewpoint	5
Uses relevant sources in the essay. Refers to this evidence at some appropriate points	4
Provides some relevant evidence. Refers to this evidence but with inaccuracies	3
Provides some limited evidence with inaccuracies. Makes an attempt to refer to some of this evidence	2
Provides minimal evidence which is often irrelevant or inaccurate	1
Subtotal	6
Conclusion	
Draws together the argument/viewpoint of the essay, linking evidence presented with the original proposition	3
Summarises the argument/viewpoint of the essay, making some reference to the topic/question	2
Makes general/superficial statements about the focus of the essay	1
Subtotal	3
Total	25

Question 26

(25 marks)

Evaluate the importance of key events of the Archidamian War on its progress and outcome.

Answers could include:

The words 'key events' are from the syllabus, stronger answers are likely to focus on this aspect of the question, choosing specific events they consider to be 'key' to the progress and outcome of the war. Stronger answers should provide relevant evidence from the narrative and modern/ancient sources to support the choice of key events, thereby building an argument about why these events are important to the progress and outcome of the Archidamian War.

Key events and progress of the War

430–425 BC

- Spartan ally Thebes attacks Plataea, an Athenian ally.
- Invasions of Attica by Sparta (every year except 429 and 426); evacuation of Attica behind the long walls in line with Pericles' strategy.
- Athens refused to engage with the Sparta army, but made raids on the coast of the Peloponnese and the coasts of Sparta's allies, some victories for Athens in western Greece and the coastal towns of Arcania.
- The plague 430. Led to death of 1/3 of population of Athens (particularly the younger men of military service age). Pericles' death led to changes in leadership after 429 (i.e. Cleon and Hyperbolus) and thus diverging views in strategy developed.
- 428 – the war had reached a stalemate. Mytilene revolted, Lesbos joined the Spartan alliance and appealed to Sparta for help. Sparta was reluctant to respond. Athens' response was quick, despite disadvantages that were a result of losses suffered during the plague (manpower and money specifically – new taxes were applied to the rich). Athens besieged the island. Though Sparta sent a fleet under Alcidas, they achieved nothing. The debate in Athens over how to treat the rebels in Mytilene took place with the final decision being to execute the ringleaders, dismantle their walls and take the fleet. The majority of the land was then distributed to Athenian Cleruchs.
- 427 – Athens' ally, Plataea, is besieged and destroyed by Sparta. Civil war breaks out in Corcyra between Athenian supported Democrats and Spartan supported Oligarchs.
- 425 – Pylos and Sphacteria. Demosthenes saw an opportunity to gain a base in enemy territory at Pylos and Sphacteria. Athens' absolute victory included the capture of 120 Spartiates.

424–422 BC

- Brasidas may not have had the confidence of all members of Spartan leadership (Hornblower et al suggests that envy of his position and success may have limited support for him at home), he did raise an army (many of whom were Helots or mercenaries) and march to the North East, heeding a call for relief from the Chalcidians initially.
- After supporting the Megarian Oligarchs, Brasidas arrived in Macedon where, after disagreeing with Perdiccas, he moved to Acanthus, modelling himself as their liberator in line with the original claim of the Spartans that they sought a 'free Greece' as their goal.
- Amphipolis is captured. Torone went over to Sparta. Armistice with Athens was signed in 423, perhaps while Scione revolted from Athens, Brasidas refused to give it up. Mende revolted from Athens, but was retaken. Scione was placed under siege by Athens and Cleon led forces to Amphipolis, which he lost to the Athenians.
- Cleon and Brasidas are killed at Amphipolis. Candidates may debate Thucydides' statement that with the death of these two removed those who '... had been most opposed to peace' *Thuc. Book V.16*.

Question 26 (continued)

421 BCE – outcome/s of the Archidamian War.

- Both sides were amenable to peace and the Peace of Nicias was arranged. Candidates may indicate that though this peace treaty may be seen as the outcome of the Archidamian War, it was a problematic arrangement for both sides, pleasing none of their allies and leading to disquiet that ultimately fed the resurgence of direct conflict between Athens and Sparta.

Accept other relevant answers.

Question 27

(25 marks)

Assess the factors that contributed to the defeat of Athens in the Sicilian Campaigns of 415–413 BC.

Answers could include:

The reasons for Athens' defeat should form the focus of any good answer to the question and are likely to be centred on the notions that leadership fell short and/or that the Demos made poor decisions. The generals' failures in Sicily on campaign were or were not more significant than the role of those at home whom Thucydides claims did not support the expedition.

- After much debate in the assembly, the Athenians sent a huge force of triremes, supplies and men under the command of three strategoi, Lamachus, Alcibiades and Nicias. The Athenian leaders were problematic – Nicias was against the enterprise. Nicias' initial successes provided him with the opportunity to take Syracuse, but he did not succeed due to hesitancy and indecisiveness. The consequences of Nicias' weaknesses and mistakes by describing his numerous military blunders during the campaign (i.e. the failure of the siege against Syracuse; his poor response to Gylippus' arrival and subsequent actions; his delays later in the campaign); Alcibiades betrayed Athens and the expedition to Sparta; Lamachus died before he had chance to affect a positive influence. Demosthenes achieved little – he appears to have been handicapped by Nicias' greater authority.
- There was a significant issue with leadership – to appoint three leaders who had differing and opposing views and personalities was disastrous.
- Thucydides wrote that Pericles feared Athens' 'own mistakes' – their over-confidence in Sicily, their own unsettled political environment and seemingly cavalier attitude perhaps made them vulnerable to mistakes, which resulted in the disaster.
- Poor leadership of the Demos in Athens might also be held accountable for the catastrophe. Decisions to send the campaign at all, to send leaders with equal authority one of whom had argued against the campaign, to send leaders with no clear plan of action, to recall Alcibiades and not replace either him or Lamachus, and to send the enormous reinforcements with Demosthenes, all add weight to the argument that leadership in Athens must also answer for the disaster to an extent. This supports the observation of Thucydides I.144.
- Gylippus' leadership was a significant factor in Athens defeat. Athens didn't simply 'lose' the campaign, the Sicilians and Gylippus actively 'won' it. Gylippus' dynamism, strategic ability and capacity to engage the locals were key factors in the outcome. Thus, candidates might conclude that Thucydides' statement is not entirely appropriate – the enemy had the better strategy.

Accept other relevant answers.

Question 28

(25 marks)

Analyse the causes, events and consequences of the Oligarchic Coup.

Answers could include:

Causes – Discontent

- The wealthier upper classes had financially suffered during the war, especially as a result of damage done to their estates by the invasions and the imposition of the eisphora or special levy.
- The destruction of the fleet in Sicily and re-emerging danger of revolt amongst the allies resulted in the decision in the late summer of 413 to establish a board of older men (probouloi). Aristotle later claimed that this introduced an oligarchic element into Athenian politics. (Ath. Pol. 1299b)
- Actions by upper-class political clubs. The development of upper-class political clubs (Hetaireiai) reflected a loss of confidence in the democratic polis to win the war and the increasing involvement of Persia in the war fuelled the alarm that was being expressed by many.
- Discontent in the Demos. Anger developed within the Demos, especially among the wealthier classes, about the increasing cost of the war and the apparent 'incompetence' of the democratic government.
- Other concerns: Revolt among Athens' Ionian allies – Euboea and Lesbos approached the Spartans for support – as did Chios, Miletus and Rhodes supported by the Persians. The military focus moved to Ionia as Sparta had begun to build a fleet.
- Alcibiades – was involved in influencing the Spartans and the Ionians. Alcibiades soon joined the service of the Persian satrap, Tissaphernes, and then contacted sympathetic officers of the Athenian fleet at Samos. His aims appear to have been selfish – the removal of the radical democrats in Athens would enable him to revive his career.

Main events

- Peisander returned to Athens in early June 411 – the oligarchs seized power and established the rule of the Four Hundred, after a sudden coup. The rule of the Four Hundred lasted nearly four months (June – September 411) before collapsing. Many of the oligarchic leaders were prepared, in order to protect their own safety and interests, to do deals with Sparta which would result in the surrender of the city, the loss of the fleet and walls. The Four Hundred were ejected and replaced with a broader oligarchy of Five Thousand – Thucydides states: '... the Athenians appear to have had a better government than ever before, at least in my time. There was a reasonable and moderate blending of the few and the many' (VIII.97).

Consequences

Athens' problem was that though this oligarchic government may have been more 'moderate', power and prosperity were more dependent on the Thetes, the class that manned the fleet. The rule of the Five Thousand came to an end at the beginning of the summer of 410 and Athens was ruled by a democratic regime until its final defeat in 404.

Accept other relevant answers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Question 17

Information from: The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (n.d.). *Cleruchy*. Retrieved August, 2023, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/cleruchy>

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