

Name: .....  
(First name *and* surname - CAPITAL LETTERS please)

Current school: .....



**16+ Entry Examination**

**SAMPLE PAPER**

# **Ancient History**

**45 Minutes**

## **Instructions**

- For both questions, you are not expected to know anything about the context beyond what is provided on the paper.
- Answer both questions on lined paper, ensuring your name is on the top of each new sheet.
- You are advised to spend 25 minutes on the first question, 15 on the second, and 5 checking your answer for the quality of English.

## QUESTION 1

In this extract from his *Histories*, the 5<sup>th</sup> c. Athenian aristocrat Thucydides puts a speech in the mouth of the statesman Pericles, a man he greatly admired. This speech was delivered in recognition of those who had died in the war against Sparta, but Pericles uses it to praise Athens in general.

Our form of government does not enter into rivalry with the institutions of others. Our government does not copy our neighbours', but is an example to them. It is true that we are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few. But while there exists equal justice to all and alike in their private disputes, the claim of excellence is also recognized; and when a citizen is in any way distinguished, he is preferred to the public service, not as a matter of privilege, but as the reward of merit. Neither is poverty an obstacle, but a man may benefit his country whatever the obscurity of his condition. There is no exclusiveness in our public life, and in our private business we are not suspicious of one another, nor angry with our neighbour if he does what he likes; we do not put on sour looks at him which, though harmless, are not pleasant. While we are thus unconstrained in our private business, a spirit of honour pervades our public acts; we are prevented from doing wrong by respect for the authorities and for the laws, having a particular regard to those which are ordained for the protection of the injured as well as those unwritten laws which bring upon the transgressor of them the reprobation of the general sentiment.

Thucydides 2.37

**1) How useful is this passage for understanding the way the Athenians viewed their city? You should comment on:**

- what we can learn from the passage about the institutions in place and the attitude of the citizens;
- what we can learn from the passage based on the language used;
- how reliable we should consider this depiction, given Thucydides' background and feelings towards Pericles.

[20 marks]

## Question 2

**Tacitus is a Roman historian, writing at the beginning of the 2nd Century A.D. This is the introduction to perhaps his most notable work, *The Annals*, which covers the lives of the first five Emperors of Rome. He sets out his intentions:**

Rome at the outset was a city state under the government of kings: liberty and the consulate were institutions of Lucius Brutus. Dictatorships were always a temporary measure: the decemviral<sup>1</sup> office was dead within two years, nor was the consular authority of the military tribunes long-lived. Neither Cinna nor Sulla created a lasting despotism: Pompey and Crassus quickly forfeited their power to Caesar, and Lepidus and Antony their swords to Augustus, who, under the style of "Prince," gathered beneath his empire a world outworn by civil conflict. But, while the glories and disasters of the old Roman commonwealth have been chronicled by famous authors, and intellects of distinction were not lacking to tell the tale of the Augustan age, until the rising tide of flattery deterred them, the histories of Tiberius and Caligula, of Claudius and Nero, were falsified through cowardice while they flourished, and composed, when they fell, under the influence of still rankling hatreds. Hence my design, to treat a small part (the concluding one) of Augustus' reign, then the principate of Tiberius and its sequel, without anger and without partiality, from the motives of which I stand sufficiently removed.

**2) What can we learn from this passage about Tacitus as an historian? Think about:**

- how he lays out his intentions;
- the language he uses;
- his claim that he will write "without anger and without partiality".

[20 marks]

**END OF PAPER**

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<sup>1</sup> A time when a council of ten men ruled Rome