

PAPER II: SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF ANCIENT GREECE

Paper Code: HHSCR1021T

Module 1

1.The Greek Polis

- 1) Origins and characteristics of the Polis-citizenship in the Greek Polis-forms of constitution.
- 2) Structure of the Polis – the Assembly of Citizens, the Council and the Magistrates.
- 3) Causes of the decline of the Polis.

2: Social and economic organisation of the Polis

- 1) The class composition of the Polis –1) Citizens, 2) Metics and Periocoi and 3) Slaves, Helots and Servile classes.
- 2) The role of the slavery and serfdom in the economy.
- 3) The economic life of Citizens, Metics.

3: The Spartan Oligarchy

- 1) Social basis of the Spartan polity – social classes – land tenure – Spartan discipline and education - the place of women in Spartan life – army organisation.
- 2) The Spartan Constitution in its fully developed form.
- 3) The Peloponnesian League and its structure.

4: Athenian Democracy

- 1) Social basis and nature of the Athenian democracy in the fully developed form – how democratic was Athens?
- 2) The evolution of the Athenian constitution from Solon to Cleisthenes.
- 3) Constitutional reforms under Ephialtes and Pericles.

5: The Athenian Empire

- 1) The growth of Athenian sea power during and after the Persian wars.
- 2) The origin and structure of the Athenian Empire – was it a tyranny?
- 3) The commerce of Athens – attainment of commercial hegemony.

Module 2

1: The outbreak of the Peloponnesian War

- 1) Thucydides – notion of historical causation – immediate and fundamental causes of the Peloponnesian War.
- 2) Resources of the opponents.
- 3) War economy and public finance – the financing of the War by Athens and Sparta.

2: Thucydides and the Athenian strategy against Sparta

- 1) Thucydides' view of Pericles and his strategy.

- 2) Thucydides' view of the conduct of war after Pericles – was popular control incompetent?
- 3) Thucydides' on Cleon – a fair assessment?
- 4) The Sicilian expedition – a foolish enterprise?

3: Thucydides and the moral deterioration of Athens at War

- 1) Pericles' funeral oration – the initial moral conviction.
- 2) The plague and its moral effects.
- 3) The debate on Mytilene – speeches of Cleon and Diodotus.
- 4) The Molion debate and its significance.
- 5) How Thucydides depicts the progressive loss of morality and restraint in course of the War.

4: History as a discipline

- 1) The emergence of history – from the legographers to Herodotus.
- 2) Herodotus' basic view of the Persian war and its inner meaning and significance.
- 3) The contrast of Thucydides with Herodotus regarding the scope of history and the historical method.

5: Gods and Games

- 1) Greek religion – Homeric God and Mystery cults.
- 2) The role of games in Hellenian civilization.

6: Greek Thought, Attic Drama and Greek Art

- 1) The philosophical and scientific speculation before Socrates.
- 2) The Sophists and the new education.
- 3) Socrates – scepticism and blasphemy trials.
- 4) Attic drama – tragedy, Aeschylus – the Oresteian trilogy, Sophocles – the ban plays, Euripides, Comedy and Aristophanes.
- 5) Greek Art – architectural forms, sculpture, painting.

References

JP Bury, History of Greece
Richard Clogg, A Concise History of Greece
John Boardman – Greek Art
Bury, Cook and Adcock – Athens 478 – 410 BC
N.G.L. Hammond – A History of Greece to 322 BC
Thomas R. Martin – Ancient Greece
Robin Osborne – Classical Greece
G. Grote – History of Greece: From Solon to 403 BC.