



Old Western Culture

A Christian Approach to the Great Books

Year 1: The Greeks

Unit 3

The Histories

Herodotus, Thucydides, and Xenophon



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA *Video Course*

Exam A Answer Key

*Please Note: This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.
Download the latest revision at www.RomanRoadsMedia.com.*

NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 5–20 points each, for a total of 100 points. Two two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions via “Ask Mr. C” by sending an email to AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com. We may respond by email or by a public video response if we feel this is a question many students would benefit in hearing more about.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.





HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the daily worksheets. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, most of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose how to use the extra exam.

“MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

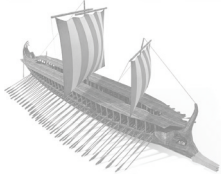
This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there IS variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85%—in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor—and should be received as such.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at questions@romanroadsmedia.com. We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!





The Histories

Exam A Answer Key

1. In what ways did Athens become like Persia between the time of the Greco Persian Wars and the Peloponnesian War? (10 pts.)

During the period between the Greco Persian Wars and the Peloponnesian War, the cultural values of Athens transitioned from an emphasis on individual liberty, and the life of the mind to a more Persian mindset that was focused on power, luxury, and material wealth.

2. The Greek city states were not united by a common government. What united them? (5 pts.)

The Greek city states were united by a common culture, language, and religion.

3. What surprising thing does Solon say must happen before a man can be said to be truly happy? (5 pts.)

According to Solon, a man must have died before it can be said that he was truly happy.

4. Why does Herodotus say Croesus was the cause of the Greco-Persian Wars? (10 pts.)

Herodotus blames Croesus for the beginnings of the Greco-Persian Wars because Croesus initiated the oppression of Greek city states before he was conquered by Cyrus. Cyrus (a Persian) continued the practice, now bringing direct hostility between East and West.

5. Why do many historians consider the Battle of Marathon a turning point in Western Civilization? (10 pts.)

Many historians speculate that if the Greeks had not won the Battle of Marathon, they would never have risen to power. If the Greeks had never risen to power, the Persian empire would have expanded, and the Roman Empire would probably not have existed.

6. Why did Thucydides write this history? What does he believe is true about the relationship between the past and the future? What motivation does this give us for studying the great books? (20 pts.)

Thucydides writes in order to assist all people with an understanding of the future through an accurate knowledge of the past. This is important because he believes that the future must either resemble or reflect the past. Thus the stories that people have always held to be important in their own time can have a lasting effect on us and our knowledge of who we are and where we are going.

7. Why does Thucydides call the Peloponnesian War the greatest war that ever was? (10 pts.)

Thucydides calls the Peloponnesian War the greatest war that ever was because it involved so much of the ancient world, because it was so long, and because the consequences were so destructive to the major powers of the known world.

8. According to Thucydides, what is the constant in history? (10 pts.)

Thucydides says that human nature is the constant in history. It never changes.

9. What are the four Athenian reactions to defeat? (15 pts.)

The four Athenian reactions to the Sicilian disaster are denial, anger, fear/despair, and temporary prudence/resolve.

10. The Golden age of Greece in the 5th century BC centers around what city? (5 pts.)

The Golden age of Greece centers primarily around the city of Athens.

11. Why have so few triremes survived to this day? (BONUS QUESTION FOR EXTRA CREDIT) (5 pts.)

Very few triremes have survived decay because they had no keel and therefore wouldn't sink when they were damaged, which means they never got preserved in the sediment on the ocean floor.

12. How can Thucydides' account of the Peloponnesian War be read as a Greek tragedy? (BONUS QUESTION FOR EXTRA CREDIT) (5 pts.)

Some scholars read Thucydides as a Greek tragedy, focusing on the "tragic fall of an otherwise great man (city), because of some flaw (pride) in his character."