

CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE 201

FINAL WRITTEN INTERPRETATION EXERCISE

A.U.B.
1999-2000
2nd Semester

June 5, 2000
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OPEN BOOKS – OPEN NOTES – OPEN MINDS
(TIME: 1 ½ HOURS)

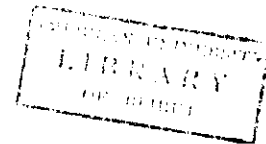
PRO-MEMORIA: Your papers will be graded in terms of five major considerations:

1. **RELEVANCE:** Your ability to define or limit the issues under discussion (neither TOO MUCH nor TOO LITTLE: sticking to the point; focusing on the point).
2. **COHERANCE:** Your ability to select, organize, argue or analyze the issues logically, relatedly, systematically.
3. **ADEQUACY:** Your ability to present the point of view of the text fairly, forcefully, empathetically, showing a command of the material and an appreciation of the major elements and characteristic “spirit” of the text.
4. **CRITICAL EVALUATION:** Your ability to apply the vision or views of the text, to compare with other views you have considered, and to measure the views against your own experience and reflection upon the issues presented.
5. **VERBAL EXPRESSION:** Your ability to use language at the service of your thoughts. I cannot grade what you have in mind, unless you express it clearly.

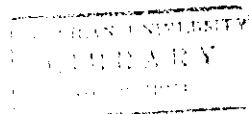
ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY:

I. TEACHER/STUDENT RELATIONSHIP:

- A. Socrates/Plato
- B. Plato/Aristotle
- C. Epicurus/Lucretius



1. Identify the basic distinctive features of the relationship between teacher and student in each case.
2. State VERY briefly Socrates’ concept of the role and function of the good educator, then
3. In the light of this Socratic concept (2 above) and using it as your criterion for judgement: Who is the most successful teacher: Socrates, Plato, or Epicurus? Justify your choice.



OR VII. "NATURE IS FREE AND UNCONTROLLED BY PROUD MASTERS".

(Lucretius, p.92)

1. Elaborate the consequences of this concept of nature on man, his morality, religion, social behaviour, etc.
2. Comment on it critically from Aristotle's OR Virgil's point of view.
3. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.

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OR III. SUICIDE

1. Analyze briefly and comparatively the causes (why), the motives (what for), and the consequences of the suicide of ONE (1) of the following queens.
 - a. Jocasta
 - b. Dido
 - c. Amata (=Lavinia's mother).
2. Comment on this suicide from Lucretius' point of view.
3. Conclude by attempting to interpret the queens' action within their respective cultural value system. Is there any implication concerning the status (=position) of woman within the different civilizations?

OR IV. JUSTICE

1. Analyze very briefly the concept of justice as it appears in the Melian dialogue. (Thucydides V: 84-116)
2. How would the chorus of Sophocle's Oedipus settle the dispute? Which concept of justice would it support and why?

OR

3. On whose side are the Epicureans? OR the sophists? (Justify your answer based on the text).
4. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.

OR V . DEATH and the "HOUSE" of the Dead

- (a) Gilgamesh, pp. 92-93.
- (b) Odyssey, XI, 1:234, 333-640.
- (c) Aeneid, VI, 169-175.

1. Analyze the main features of 'the house whose people sit in darkness', (Gilgamesh) and of what happens to a man who dies.
2. Compare it critically with the Odyssean house of Hades by elaborating the main similarities and differences.
3. In what respects is Virgil's Underworld comparable?
4. Evaluate briefly, by trying to interpret how these different 'visions' of death might reflect the different societies and their feelings and attitudes towards death.

OR VI THE TWO CAVE SIMILES (Plato and Aristotle)

1. Compare very briefly these 2 similes, by pointing out the similarities and the differences: with regard, in particular, to the following points:
 - a) nature and meaning of the original dwelling place beneath the earth,
 - b) cause and motive of the ascent out of the cave,
 - c) meaning and function of the upper world (outside of the cave), or: the result of the ascent.
 2. Draw your conclusion concerning the two authors' different outlook on the world, their concepts of man and god, truth and knowledge. Which is your favourite? Why?
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OR VII The Educator = Sculptor or Midwife?

Socrates' father was a sculptor. His mother a noble and burly midwife, and "I practise the same art", he said. (simile of midwife, lecture annexes).

1. State, briefly the main distinctive features of the educator as sculptor and as midwife (perhaps in the form of a comparative table.)
2. Why did Socrates choose "to practise" his mother's and Not his father's "art"? What concept of Education does this choice reveal?
3. What simile applies to the sophist educator: sculptor or midwife? Why?
4. Who is your favorite educator? Why?

Good Luck!
SKL