



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2012

## Classical Civilisation

## CIV2B

### Unit 2B Homer *Odyssey*

Thursday 24 May 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do **not** use pencil or gel pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.  
The **Paper Reference** is CIV2B.
- Answer questions from **two** options.  
Choose **one** option from Section 1 and **one** option from Section 2.  
Answer **all** questions from the options you have chosen.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.  
Do **not** tear out any part of the book. All work must be handed in.
- If you use more than one book, check that you have written the information required on each book.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 65.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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**Section 1**

Choose **either** Option A **or** Option B.

Answer **all** questions from the option you have chosen.

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**EITHER****Option A**

Read the passage below and answer Questions 01 to 04 which follow. Odysseus is amazed by his first view of Alcinous' palace.

A kind of radiance, like that of the sun or moon, played upon the high-roofed halls of the great King. Bronze walls, topped by a frieze of dark-blue enamel, ran round to left and right from the portals to the back of the court. The interior of the well-built mansion was guarded by golden doors hung on posts of silver which were set in the bronze threshold. The lintel they supported was of silver too, and the door-handle of gold. On either side stood gold and silver dogs, which Hephaestus had made with consummate skill, to keep watch over the palace of the great-hearted Alcinous and serve him as immortal sentries never doomed to age. Inside the hall, tall chairs were ranged along the walls on either side, right round from the threshold to the chamber at the back, and each was draped with a delicately woven cover that the women had worked. Here the Phaeacian chieftains used to sit and enjoy the food and wine of which there was always a lavish supply. Golden statues of youths, fixed on solid pedestals, held flaming torches in their hands to light the banqueters in the hall by night.

*Odyssey*, Book 7, lines 84-102

- 0 1** How did Athene help Odysseus reach Alcinous' palace after he left Nausicaa? Give **three** details. (3 marks)
- 0 2** Which event does Odysseus take part in during the games Alcinous holds **and** who helps him? (2 marks)
- 0 3** How effective are the techniques Homer uses in this passage to emphasise the wealth **and** beauty of Alcinous' palace? (10 marks)
- 0 4** How important are Nausicaa **and** Arete to the plot and themes of the *Odyssey*? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Odyssey* you have read.

You might include discussion of

- the help they give to Odysseus
  - the hospitality they offer
  - relationships between men and women
  - relationships between gods and humans
  - the positions of Nausicaa and Arete in society.
- (20 marks)

OR

**Option B**

Read the passage below and answer Questions 05 to 08 which follow. Penelope is finally convinced that Odysseus has returned to her.

At his words her knees began to tremble and her heart melted as she realized that he had given her infallible proof. Bursting into tears she ran up to Odysseus, threw her arms round his neck and kissed his head. 'Odysseus,' she cried, 'do not be angry with me, you who were always the most understanding of men. All our unhappiness is due to the gods, who couldn't bear to see us share the joys of youth and reach the threshold of old age together. But don't be cross with me now, or hurt because I did not give you this loving welcome the moment I first saw you. For I had always had the cold fear in my heart that somebody might come here and deceive me with his talk. There are many who think up wicked selfish schemes. Helen of Argos, born of Zeus, would never have slept in her foreign lover's arms had she known that her countrymen would go to war to fetch her back to Argos. It was the god who drove her to do this shameful deed, though not until that moment had her heart contemplated that fatal madness, the madness which was the cause of her woes and ours.'

*Odyssey, Book 23, lines 205-224*

- 0 5** What was the 'infallible proof' (line 2) that Odysseus had just given Penelope to convince her of his identity? Give **three** details. (3 marks)
- 0 6** Who was Helen's 'foreign lover' (line 10) **and** to which city did he take her? (2 marks)
- 0 7** How effectively in this passage does Homer portray the character of Penelope **and** her feelings for Odysseus? (10 marks)
- 0 8** How important is Penelope to the plot and themes of the *Odyssey*? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Odyssey* you have read.

You might include discussion of

- Penelope's importance to Odysseus
- her actions as the story proceeds
- the hospitality she offers
- relationships between men and women
- relationships between gods and humans
- the end of the *Odyssey*.

(20 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

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**Section 2**

Choose **either** Option C **or** Option D and answer the question below.

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**EITHER****Option C**

0	9
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To what extent do Odysseus' tales of his wanderings in Books 9–12 add to your enjoyment of the *Odyssey* as a whole **and** your understanding of its themes? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Odyssey* you have read.

You might include discussion of

- where, when and why he tells these stories
- how entertaining the stories are in themselves
- what the stories show about Odysseus' character and abilities
- any general themes that the stories illustrate
- the immortals in these books.

(30 marks)

**OR****Option D**

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To what extent do fate and the gods bring about Odysseus' victory over the Suitors **and** to what extent is it due to other factors? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Odyssey* you have read.

You might include discussion of

- the nature of fate in the *Odyssey*
- the relationship between Zeus and fate
- interventions by other immortals
- the characters and abilities of the Suitors
- interventions by other mortals
- what Odysseus does on his own initiative.

(30 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

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