

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**

F382

CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Homer's Odyssey and Society

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2010: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

16 page Answer Booklet

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.**
- **Use black ink.**
- **Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.**

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- **The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.**
- **The total number of marks for this paper is 100.**

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Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.

SECTION A: COMMENTARY QUESTIONS

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

MARKS ARE AWARDED IN PARTS (b) AND (c) OF QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

I was utterly exhausted, for in my anxiety to speed our journey home I handled the sheet of my ship myself without a break, giving it to no one else.

‘The crew began to discuss matters among themselves, and word went round that I was bringing home a fortune in gold and silver which the great-hearted Aeolus son of Hippotas had given me. And this is what they said as they exchanged glances: “It’s not fair! What a captain we have, valued wherever he goes and welcomed in every port! Back he comes from Troy with a splendid haul of plunder, though we who have gone every bit as far come home with empty hands – and now Aeolus has given him all this into the bargain, as a favour for friendship’s sake! Come on; let’s find out and see how much gold and silver is hidden in that bag.”

‘After talk like this evil counsels prevailed. They undid the bag, the winds all rushed out, and in an instant the tempest was upon them, carrying them headlong out to sea, in tears, away from their native land. When I awoke my

spirit failed me. I debated within myself whether to jump overboard and drown or stay among the living and quietly endure. I stayed and endured. Covering my head with my cloak, I lay where I was in the ship. 25

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book 10, lines 31–53

- (a) What happened on the island of Aeolia BEFORE AND AFTER this passage? [10]
- (b) What are the thoughts AND feelings of both Odysseus and his men in this passage? In what ways does Homer convey them? In your answer you should include discussion of their words AND actions. [20]
- (c) How well does Odysseus communicate with his men in the *Odyssey*? In your answer you should examine both this episode and evidence from elsewhere in the poem. [25]

Do **NOT** answer this question if you have already answered Question 1.

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

When Penelope had wept to her heart's content she said in answer, 'Now, stranger, I mean to test you and find out whether you really entertained my husband and his godlike company in your palace as you say. Tell me what sort of clothes he was wearing and what he looked like; and describe the men who were with him.' **5**

'My lady,' replied the resourceful Odysseus, 'it is difficult for me to speak after parting so long ago; and it is twenty years since he left my country. However, I'll give you the picture of him that I have in my mind's eye. Noble Odysseus wore a thick, double, purple cloak, displaying a golden brooch with a pair of sheaths into which the pins fitted. There was a device on the face of it: a hound holding down a dappled fawn in his forepaws and ripping it as it scrabbled. Everyone admired the workmanship, the hound ripping and throttling the fawn, the fawn scrabbling with his feet in his efforts to escape – and the whole thing done in gold. I noticed his tunic too. It gleamed on his body like the skin of a dried onion, it was so smooth; and it shone like the Sun. I tell you, all the women were fascinated by it.' **10**
15
20
25

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book 19, lines 213–235

- (a) What has Penelope done in the *Odyssey* up to this point? [10]**
- (b) How does Homer make this passage vivid? In your answer you should include discussion of the language used. [20]**
- (c) Using this passage as a starting point, consider how and why Odysseus and Penelope test people. In your answer you should discuss the way they test each other and the way Odysseus tests other people in Ithaca. [25]**

[Section A Total: 55]

SECTION B: ESSAYS

Answer **ONE** question.

Start your answer on a new page.

MARKS ARE AWARDED FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

- 3 ‘Odysseus is motivated only by his desire to return home (*nostos*).’ How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should:

- consider how Odysseus behaves on his journey home;
- include an analysis of his motives;
- support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]

- 4 To what extent do you think that the gods and goddesses of the *Odyssey* provide good role models for the mortals?

In your answer you should:

- consider what the gods and goddesses do;
- discuss whether mortals are expected to behave in the same way;
- support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]

5 'The society portrayed in the *Odyssey* is not firmly based in any historical or archaeological period.' How far do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- **consider societies such as Ithaca and Phaeacia and compare them with the historical and archaeological background of the *Odyssey*;**
- **include an analysis of the reasons for any inconsistencies;**
- **support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**

[Section B Total: 45]

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