

Thursday 24 May 2012 – Afternoon

AS GCE CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

F382 Homer's *Odyssey* and Society

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR supplied materials:

- 16 page Answer Booklet
(sent with general stationery)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

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**.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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.

“Good sir, remember your duty to the gods; we are your suppliants, and Zeus is the champion of suppliants and guests. He is the god of guests: guests are sacred to him, and he goes alongside them.”

‘That is what I said, and he answered me promptly out of his pitiless heart: “Stranger, you must be a fool, or must have come from very far afield, to order me to fear or reverence the gods. We Cyclopes care nothing for Zeus with his aegis, nor for the rest of the blessed gods, since we are much stronger than they are. I would never spare you or your men for fear of incurring Zeus’ enmity, unless I felt like it. But tell me where you moored your good ship when you came. Was it somewhere along the coast, or nearby? I’d like to know.”

‘His words were designed to get the better of me, but he could not outwit someone with my knowledge of the world. I answered with plausible words: “As for my ship, it was wrecked by the Earthshaker Poseidon on the borders of your land. The wind had carried us on to a lee shore. He drove the ship up to a headland and hurled it on the rocks. But I and my friends here managed to escape with our lives.”

‘To this the cruel brute made no reply. Instead, he jumped up, and reaching out towards my men, seized a couple and dashed their heads against the floor as though they had been puppies. Their brains ran out on the ground and soaked the earth. Limb by limb he tore them to pieces to make his meal, which he devoured like a mountain lion, leaving nothing, neither entrails nor flesh, marrow nor bones, while we, weeping, lifted up our hands to Zeus in horror at the ghastly sight. We felt completely helpless. When the Cyclops had filled his great belly with this meal of human flesh, which he washed down with unwatered milk, he stretched himself out for sleep among his flocks inside the cave.

Homer, *Odyssey* Book 9 269–298

- (a) What has Odysseus already told the Phaeacians about his travels before the beginning of this passage? [10]
- (b) How does Homer make this passage shocking and horrific? In your answer you should include discussion of what is said and done, and the way it is written. [20]
- (c) In what ways do the supernatural happenings Odysseus has encountered during his travels add to the success of the *Odyssey*? In your answer you should include discussion of a range of strange events from Books 5–12 and what they contribute to the poem. [25]

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

Marks are awarded in parts (b) and (c) of Questions 1 and 2 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

The great goddess then endowed her with immortal gifts to make the Achaeans marvel at her beauty. First she cleansed her fair cheeks with a divine ointment used by Aphrodite when she puts on her lovely crown to join the Graces in their charming dance. Then she made her taller and fuller in appearance, and her skin whiter than newly sawn ivory. When her work was done the goddess withdrew, and the white-armed maids came up from another part of the house, chattering. Penelope woke up, rubbed her cheeks with her hands and exclaimed: 'What a wonderful sleep, in spite of all my troubles! I wish holy Artemis would grant me a death as gentle as that this very moment, and save me from wasting my life in anguish and longing for my dear husband, who had all the virtues, and was the finest man in all Achaea.' 5

Then she left her bright room and went downstairs, not by herself, but with the two waiting-women. When she came near to her Suitors the great lady drew a fold of her shining veil across her cheeks and took her stand by a pillar of the massive roof, with a faithful maid on either side. 10

The Suitors went weak at the knees. Their hearts melted with desire, and every man among them voiced a prayer that he might sleep with her. But Penelope turned to her dear son. 'Telemachus,' she said, 'your sense and judgement aren't what they were.' 15

Homer, *Odyssey* Book 18 190–217

- (a) Briefly outline what the Suitors have done in the *Odyssey* up to this point. [10]
- (b) How is Penelope shown in this passage to be a beautiful and desirable woman? In your answer you should include discussion of what is said and done and the way it is written. [20]
- (c) 'A woman in conflict not only with herself but also with everyone around her.' How far do you agree with this description of Penelope in the *Odyssey*? In your answer you should include discussion of the people she meets, the emotions she feels and the decisions she makes. [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 successful because of his skills in speaking.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- consider a number of occasions where Odysseus succeeds;
- discuss whether his success is due to his skills in speaking or for other reasons;
- use evidence from the *Odyssey*.

[45]

- 4** To what extent does the *Odyssey* demonstrate the importance of hospitality (*xenia*) in Homeric society?

In your answer you should:

- consider the different ways guest-friendship is shown in the epic;
- discuss how far the importance of following the rules of hospitality is highlighted;
- use evidence from the *Odyssey*.

[45]

- 5** Which half of the *Odyssey* did you enjoy more, Books 1–12 (Telemachus and the journey of Odysseus) or Books 13–24 (events after Odysseus' arrival in Ithaca)?

In your answer you should:

- consider what happens in **both** halves of the *Odyssey* **and** the way the story is told;
- discuss which half you enjoyed more, and why;
- use evidence from the *Odyssey*.

[45]

[Section B Total: 45]

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