



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2009

Classical Civilisation

CIV2B

Unit 2B Homer, *Odyssey*

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards

This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book

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** for this paper is **CIV2B**.
- Answer questions from **two** options.
Choose **one** option from Section One and **one** option from Section Two.
Answer **all** questions from the options you have chosen.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Write the question number in the boxes provided in the left margin at the start of each question,
e.g.

0	1
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- Leave a space between each answer.
- 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.

Section One

Choose **either** Option A **or** Option B.
Answer **all** questions from the option you have chosen.

EITHER

Option A

Read the passage below and answer Questions 01 to 05 which follow. Agamemnon, the Greek leader at Troy, has met Odysseus in Hades and has told him about what happened on his return to Mycenae.

“Yes,” replied Agamemnon. “Never be too trustful even of your wife, nor show her all that is in your mind. Reveal a little of your plans to her, but keep the rest to yourself. Not that *your* wife, Odysseus, will ever murder you. Icarius’ daughter is far too loyal in her thoughts and feelings. The wise Penelope! She was a young woman when we said goodbye to her on our way to the war. She had a baby son at her breast. And now, I suppose, he has begun to take his seat among the men. Fortunate young man! His loving father will come home and see him, and he will kiss his father. That is how things should be. Whereas that wife of mine refused me even the satisfaction of setting eyes on my son – she killed me before I could. And now I will give you a piece of advice; take it to heart. Do not sail openly into port when you reach your home-country. Make a secret approach. Women, I tell you, are no longer to be trusted. But can you give me the truth about my son? Have you and your friends heard of him as still alive? ... For my good Orestes has not yet died and come below.”

“Son of Atreus,” I answered him, “why ask me that? I have no idea whether he is alive or dead. It does no good to utter empty words.”

Odyssey Book 11, lines 440-461

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 According to Agamemnon, who helped his wife kill him? (1 mark)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
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 Who advised Odysseus to visit Hades? (1 mark)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
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 ‘Do not sail openly into port...’(line 10). How did Odysseus arrive on Ithaca? Give **three** details. (3 marks)
- | | |
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 In this passage, how effectively does Homer portray Agamemnon’s attitude towards wives **and** sons? (10 marks)
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
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 How important is the visit to Hades **both** to Odysseus **and** to the poem as a whole? Refer to the books of the *Odyssey* you have read.

You might include discussion of

- the visit as a personal challenge for Odysseus
- information Odysseus receives in Hades concerning his family and home situation
- how he later uses the information he is given
- the reasons for the visit as stated in Book 10
- the significance of the meeting with Teiresias
- the other characters he comes across, both human and mythological. (20 marks)

OR

Option B

Read the passage below and answer Questions 06 to 09 which follow. Odysseus has just picked up his old bow in the great hall as the Suitors look on.

Odysseus now had the bow in his hands and was twisting it about and bending it at both ends, in case worms had eaten into the horn in the long absence of its owner. The Suitors glanced at one another and one said: 'Ha! Quite the expert, with a critic's eye for bows! No doubt he collects them at home or wants to make one, judging by the way he twists it about. The old vagabond is up to no good.' Another arrogant youth said: 'I hope he has as much luck at that as he has chance of ever stringing the bow!' 5

While they were talking Odysseus, master of stratagems, had picked up the great bow and checked it all over. As a minstrel skilled at the lyre and in song easily stretches a string round a new leather strap, fixing the twisted sheep-gut at both ends, so he strung the great bow without effort or haste. Then with his right hand he tested the string, and it sang as he plucked it with a sound like a swallow's note. The Suitors were utterly mortified; the colour faded from their cheeks; and to mark the moment there came a thunderclap from Zeus, and Odysseus' long-suffering heart leapt up for joy at this sign of favour from the Son of Cronos of the devious ways. 15

Odyssey Book 21, lines 393-415

- 0 6** What has Penelope just said to persuade the Suitors to let Odysseus try to string the bow? Give **three** details. (3 marks)
- 0 7** What happened with **each** of the first two arrows Odysseus fired? (2 marks)
- 0 8** In this passage, how effectively does Homer convey the moods of **both** the Suitors **and** Odysseus? (10 marks)
- 0 9** How important is Telemachus to the *Odyssey*? Refer to the books of the *Odyssey* you have read.

You might include discussion of

- Telemachus' journey to Pylos and Sparta
- Telemachus' relationship with Penelope throughout the poem
- Odysseus' thoughts of his son during his wanderings
- Telemachus' meeting with Odysseus on Ithaca
- Telemachus' role in the poem after this meeting.

(20 marks)

Turn over ►

Section Two

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

EITHER**Option C**

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Judging from the books of the *Odyssey* you have read, how important do you consider the conventions of hospitality (*xenia*) **both** to the plot **and** to the themes of the poem?

You might include discussion of

- the rules of hospitality (*xenia*) and the reasons for them
- Calypso in Book 5
- the Phaeacians in Books 6-8 and 13
- the characters Odysseus meets during his wanderings in Books 9-12
- the characters Odysseus meets after his return to Ithaca from Book 14 onwards.

(30 marks)

OR**Option D**

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'Odysseus' own actions are less important than help from immortals on his journey to Phaeacia.'

On the evidence of the books you have read, how far do you agree with this opinion?

You might include discussion of

- the nature of Zeus and how far he is involved
- how far Athene intervenes
- the role of other gods such as Hermes, Calypso, Poseidon and Ino
- the events which Odysseus describes to the Phaeacians in Books 9-12
- occasions when Odysseus shows initiative.

(30 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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