



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

## Classical Civilisation

## CIV2A

### Unit 2A Homer 'Iliad'

Tuesday 2 June 2015 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**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.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is CIV2A.
- 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 in the translation which you have studied. Answer Questions **01** to **04** which follow. Menelaus (Menelaos) and Paris (Alexandros) are fighting a duel.

The translation of E. V. Rieu

Menelaus then drew his silver-riveted sword, swung it back and brought it down full on the ridge of his enemy's helmet. But the sword shattered on the helmet and fell in pieces from his hands. Menelaus gave a groan and looked up to the broad sky:

'Father Zeus, there is no god more spiteful than you. I thought I had paid Paris back for his wickedness, and now my sword breaks in my hands when I have already thrown my spear for nothing and never touched the man!' 5

He spoke and, hurling himself at Paris, seized him by the horsehair crest and, turning him round, began to drag him back into the Greek lines. Paris was choked by the pressure on his tender throat of the embroidered helmet-strap which he had tied tightly under his chin; and Menelaus would have hauled him off and won unutterable glory, but for the quickness of Aphrodite daughter of Zeus, who saw what was happening and broke the strap made of leather from a slaughtered ox. So the helmet came away empty in Menelaus' clenched fist. The warrior swung it round and tossed it into the Greek lines, where it was picked up by his loyal troops, and launched himself at Paris again in the hope of killing him with his bronze spear. 10 15

'Iliad' Book 3, lines 361-380

The translation of M. Hammond

The son of Atreus drew his silver-nailed sword, swung it high for the blow, and brought it crashing down on the helmet's ridge – there it shattered and slipped in shivers from his hand. The son of Atreus looked up into the wide heaven and cried out: 'Father Zeus, there is no deadlier god than you! I thought I had vengeance on Alexandros for his crime. But now my sword has broken in my hands, and my spear flew fruitless from my grip, and I could not hit him.' 5

So he spoke, then sprang forward and seized Alexandros by the thick horsehair of the helmet, spun him round, and started to drag him back towards the well-greaved Achaians: at his soft neck the stitched strap was throttling him, the helmet-strap tight under his chin. And now he would have dragged him back and won limitless glory, if Zeus' daughter Aphrodite had not quickly seen. She broke the strap, made from the hide of a slaughtered ox, and Menelaos' massive hand pulled away the helmet empty. The hero then whirled it round and flung it into the well-greaved Achaians, and his trusty companions retrieved it. He then sprang back ready to kill Alexandros with his bronze spear. 10 15

'Iliad' Book 3, lines 361-380

0	1
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For what wrongdoing by Paris (Alexandros) does Menelaus (Menelaos) want revenge?  
Give **two** details.

[2 marks]

0	2
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How does the duel end? Give **three** details.

[3 marks]

0	3
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How effectively in the passage does Homer contrast the fighting abilities **and** other heroic qualities of Menelaus and Paris?

[10 marks]

0	4
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'Hector (Hektor) lacks the qualities of a true hero as much as Paris does.'

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the 'Iliad' you have read.

You might include discussion of:

- the qualities needed to be a hero
- the characters of Paris and Hector
- the role each plays in the plot
- what mortals say about each
- how immortals regard and treat them both.

[20 marks]

**Turn over for Option B**

**Turn over ▶**

or

### Option B

Read the passage below in the translation which you have studied. Answer Questions **05** to **09** which follow. The foot-race is just about to start.

The translation of E. V. Rieu

Achilles arose and addressed the Greeks:

‘Come forward the men to compete for this prize.’

So he spoke, and swift-footed Ajax son of Oileus immediately rose; so too did quick-thinking Odysseus and Nestor’s son Antilochus, who was the fastest of the younger men. The three of them lined up side by side, and Achilles pointed out the turning-post. 5

They went flat out from the start. Ajax son of Oileus soon shot ahead but godlike Odysseus stuck close behind, like the rod near the breast of a girdled weaving-woman: she carefully draws it along with her hands to get the spool out past the warp and brings it right up to her breast. So close was Odysseus behind Ajax, his feet falling in Ajax’s tracks before the dust had settled down again; and he kept up so well that his breath fanned Ajax’s head. He was desperate to win, and all the Greeks cheered him on, shouting encouragement to a man who was doing all he could already. As they drew near the finish, Odysseus offered up a silent prayer to grey-eyed Athene: 10

‘Hear me, goddess, be kind and help me. Come and speed my feet.’ 15

‘Iliad’ Book 23, lines 750-771

The translation of M. Hammond

Then he stood up and announced the event to the Argives: ‘Stand up those who will try now for this prize.’ So he spoke, and immediately quick Aias, Oileus’ son, stood up, and resourceful Odysseus rose too, and then Nestor’s son Antilochos – he was the best at running of the young men. They stood in line, and Achilleus showed them the turning-post. They set off at full stretch from the start, and then the son of Oileus soon drew ahead. But godlike Odysseus was pressing him very close, close as the weaver’s rod comes to the breast of a girdled woman when with the skill of her hands she pulls it in towards her and draws the bobbin through past the warp, keeping the rod close to her breast – so Odysseus kept running close, and his feet were hitting the tracks behind Aias before the dust could settle in them. Godlike Odysseus kept up his pace so that his breath was always streaming on the back of Aias’ head: and all the Achaians shouted him on in his bid for victory, giving encouragement to a man who was already making every effort. But when they were now running the last part of the course, Odysseus quickly made a prayer to bright-eyed Athene in his heart: 10

‘Listen, goddess, be a kind helper to me now and come to speed my feet.’ 15

‘Iliad’ Book 23, lines 750-771

0	5
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In whose honour are these games being held?

[1 mark]

0	6
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Name **one** of the three prizes that Achilles (Achilleus) has announced for the foot-race.

[1 mark]

0	7
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How does Athene respond to Odysseus' prayer for help (Rieu, line 16, Hammond, line 16)? Give **three** details.

[3 marks]

0	8
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How effectively in the passage does Homer describe the build-up to the race **and** its early stages?

[10 marks]

0	9
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'Book 23 contributes nothing to our appreciation of the 'Iliad'.'

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the 'Iliad' you have read.

You might include discussion of:

- the relationship of Book 23 to earlier events in the 'Iliad'
- the relationship of Book 23 to the ending of the 'Iliad'
- the way the characters are portrayed in Book 23
- the significance of Book 23 for the themes of the 'Iliad'.

[20 marks]

**Turn over for Section 2**

**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**

**1 0**

'The main characters in the 'Iliad' are motivated entirely by revenge.'

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the 'Iliad' you have read.

You might include discussion of:

- Agamemnon
- Achilles
- Patroclus
- Hector
- interventions by the immortals
- other factors including fate and the heroic code.

**[30 marks]**

**or**

**Option D**

**1 1**

'The gods and goddesses in the 'Iliad' are simply there to make sure that fate takes its course.'

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the 'Iliad' you have read.

You might include discussion of:

- the nature of fate
- the relationship between Zeus and fate
- the relationship between Zeus and the other immortals
- the interactions of immortals and mortals
- other ways in which Homer's portrayal of the immortals adds to the 'Iliad'.

**[30 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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