

ADVANCED GCE UNIT
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (JACT)

2749

Greek and Roman Epic

MONDAY 11 JUNE 2007

Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials: Answer Booklet (8 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and Candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- You must answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Start your answer to each question on a new page.
- Use an 8 page answer booklet followed by a 4 page booklet if extra paper is required.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- All questions are worth 50 marks in total including 5 marks for quality of written communication.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 100.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

This document consists of **11** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

- A1** Choose one of the following translations from the *Odyssey* and one from the *Aeneid* and answer the questions at the end.

PASSAGE 1

‘And now it is my turn to incur the envy of you gods for living with a mortal man – a man whom I rescued from death as he was drifting alone astride the keel of his ship, when Zeus had shattered it with his lightning bolt out on the wine-dark sea, and all his fine comrades were lost. But he was driven to this island by the wind and waves and I welcomed him with open arms; I tended him; I offered to make him immortal and ageless. But now, since no god can evade or thwart the will of aegis-bearing Zeus, let him go. If Zeus insists that he should leave, let him be gone across the barren water and good riddance to him! But I will not help him on his way, not I. I have no ship fitted with oars, no crew to carry him so far across the seas. Yet I do promise with a good grace and unreservedly to give him such directions as will bring him safe and sound to his native land.’ 5

‘Then send him off at once,’ the Messenger, the Giant-killer said, ‘and so avoid provoking Zeus, or he may be angry and punish you one day.’ With this the mighty Giant-killer took his leave. 10

The Nymph at once went to the valiant Odysseus, for the message from Zeus had not fallen on deaf ears. She found him sitting on the shore. His eyes were wet with weeping, as they always were. Life with its sweetness was ebbing away in the tears he shed for his lost home. 15

HOMER, *Odyssey* 5.128-153 (E. V. Rieu; Penguin)

So now, you gods, you resent it in me that I keep beside me a man, the one I saved when he clung astride of the keel board all alone, since Zeus with a cast of the shining thunderbolt had shattered his fast ship midway on the wine-blue water. Then all the rest of his excellent companions perished, but the wind and the current carried him here and here they drove him, and I gave him my love and cherished him, and I had hopes also that I could make him immortal and all his days to be endless. But since there is no way for another god to elude the purpose of aegis-bearing Zeus or bring it to nothing, let him go, let him go, if he himself is asking for this and desires it, out on the barren sea; but I will not give him conveyance, for I have not any ships by me nor any companions who can convey him back across the sea’s wide ridges; but I will freely give him my counsel and hold back nothing, so that all without harm he can come back to his own country.’ 5

Then in turn the courier Argeiphontes answered her: ‘Then send him accordingly on his way, and beware of the anger of Zeus, lest he hold a grudge hereafter and rage against you.’ 10

So spoke powerful Argeiphontes, and there he left her, while she, the queenly nymph, when she had been given the message from Zeus, set out searching after great-hearted Odysseus, and found him sitting on the seashore, and his eyes were never wiped dry of tears, and the sweet lifetime was draining out of him, as he wept for a way home. 15

HOMER, *Odyssey* 5.128-153 (R. Lattimore; Harper and Row)

PASSAGE 2

All the while he was speaking she gazed at him askance,
 Her glances flickering over him, eyes exploring the whole man
 In deadly silence. Now, furiously, she burst out: –
 Faithless and false! No goddess mothered you, no Dardanus
 Your ancestor! I believe harsh Caucasus begat you 5
 On a flint-hearted rock and Hyracanian tigers suckled you.
 Why should I hide my feelings? What worse can there be to keep them for?
 Not one sigh from him when I wept! Not a softer glance!
 Did he yield an inch, or a tear, in pity for her who loves him?
 I don't know what to say first. It has come to this, – not Juno, 10
 Not Jove himself can view my plight with the eye of justice.
 Nowhere is it safe to be trustful. I took him, a castaway,
 A pauper, and shared my kingdom with him – I must have been mad –
 Rescued his lost fleet, rescued his friends from death.
 Oh, I'm on fire and drifting! And now Apollo's prophecies, 15
 Lycian oracles, couriers of heaven sent by Juppiter
 With stern commands – all these order you to betray me.
 Oh, of course this is just the sort of transaction that troubles the calm of
 The gods. I'll not keep you, nor probe the dishonesty of your words.
 Chase your Italy, then! Go, sail to your realm overseas! 20
 I only hope that, if the just spirits have any power,
 Marooned on some mid-sea rock you may drink the full cup of agony
 And often cry out for Dido. I'll dog you, from far, with the death-fires;
 And when cold death has parted my soul from my body, my spectre
 Will be wherever you are. You shall pay for the evil you've done me. 25
 The tale of your punishment will come to me down in the shades.
 With these words Dido suddenly ended, and sick at heart
 Turned from him, tore herself away from his eyes, ran indoors,
 While he hung back in dread of a still worse scene, although
 He had much to say. 30

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 4.362-390 (C. Day-Lewis; OUP)

All the time he had been speaking she was turned away from him, but looking at him, speechless and rolling her eyes, taking in every part of him. At last she replied on a blaze of passion: 'You are a traitor. You are not the son of a goddess and Dardanus was not the first founder of your family. It was the Caucasus that fathered you on its hard rocks and Hyrcanian tigers offered you their udders. Why should I keep up a pretence? Why should I hold myself in check in order to endure greater suffering in the future? He did not sigh when he saw me weep. He did not even turn to look at me. Was he overcome and brought to tears? Had he any pity for the woman who loves him? Where can I begin when there is so much to say? Now, after all this, can mighty Juno and the son of Saturn, the father of all, can they now look at this with the eyes of justice? Is there nothing we can trust in this life? He was thrown helpless on my shores and I took him in and like a fool settled him as partner in my kingdom. He had lost his fleet and I found it and brought his companions back from the dead. It drives me to madness to think of it. And now we hear about the augur Apollo and lots cast in Lycia and now to crown all the messenger of the gods is bringing terrifying commands down through the winds from Jupiter himself, as though that is work for the gods in heaven, as though that is an anxiety that disturbs their tranquillity. I do not hold you or bandy words with you. Away you go. Keep on searching for your Italy with the winds to help you. Look for your kingdom over the waves. But my hope is that if the just gods have any power, you will drain a bitter cup among the ocean rocks, calling the name of Dido again and again, and I shall follow you not in the flesh but in the black fires of death and when its cold hand takes the breath from my body, my shade shall be with you wherever you may be. You will receive the punishment you deserve, and the news of it will reach me deep among the dead.'

At these words she broke off and rushed indoors in utter despair, leaving Aeneas with much to say and much to fear.

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 4.362-390 (D. West; Penguin)

- (a) What is the situation as the passage from the *Odyssey* begins? [10]
- (b) How effectively does Virgil portray Dido's emotions in Passage 2? [15]
- (c) In your opinion, which epic treats the separation and reunion of lovers more powerfully? In your answer, use **BOTH** these passages as a starting point. [20]

[Quality of Written Communication: 5 marks]
[Total: 50 marks]

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- A2** Choose one of the following translations from the *Odyssey* and one from the *Aeneid* and answer the questions at the end.

PASSAGE 1

The first to see him was the nurse Eurycleia, who was busy spreading rugs over the ornate chairs. With tears in her eyes she ran up to meet him, and soon all the maids of the brave Odysseus were pressing round him and showering affectionate kisses on his head and shoulders. And now the wise Penelope came out from her room, looking like Artemis or golden Aphrodite, and dissolved in tears as she threw her arms round her son's neck and kissed his forehead and his fine eyes. 'You're back, Telemachus, light of my eyes!' she said between her sobs. 'And I thought I would never see you again after you had sailed for Pylos to find out about your dear father – so secretly, so much against my wishes. Come, tell me whether you saw him.'

'Mother,' the thoughtful Telemachus replied, 'do not bring me to tears or stir my emotions when I have just escaped from a violent death. But go upstairs to your room with your ladies, and when you have washed and changed into fresh clothes pray to all the gods, promising them the most perfect offerings if Zeus ever grants us a day of reckoning. I myself will go to the assembly-place to fetch a guest who accompanied me on my journey back. I sent him ahead of me to the town with my good crew and told Peiraeus to take him home and treat him with all care and respect till I came.'

To this Penelope made no reply, but went and bathed, changed into fresh clothes, and then vowed to make a perfect offering to all the gods if ever Zeus should grant her house a day of reckoning.

HOMER, *Odyssey* 17.31-60 (E. V. Rieu; Penguin)

Far the first to see him was his nurse, Eurykleia,
 as she spread the fleeces on the elaborate chairs. She burst out
 in tears, and went straight to him, and around him the other
 serving maids of patient-hearted Odysseus clustered,
 and made much of him, and kissed him on his head and his shoulders. 5

But now circumspect Penelope came down from her chamber,
 looking like Artemis, or like golden Aphrodite,
 and burst into tears, and threw her arms around her beloved
 son, and kissed him on his head and both of his shining
 eyes, and tearfully spoke winged words and addressed him: 10
 'You have come, Telemachos, sweet light, and I thought I would never
 see you again, when you had gone in the ship to Pylos
 secretly, and against my will, for news of the father
 you love. But come now, tell me what sights you have been seeing.'

Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to her in answer: 15
 'Mother, do not stir up a scene of sorrow, nor trouble
 my heart once more, now I have escaped from sheer destruction;
 but go, wash with water and put clean clothing upon your body,
 and going on to the upper story with your attendant
 women, vow to all the gods the service of complete 20
 hecatombs, if Zeus grants requital for what is done to us.
 But I will go to the place of meeting, so I can summon
 my guest, who came along with me as I made my way here.
 I sent him on ahead of me with my godlike companions,
 and told Peiraios to take him to his own house, and give him 25
 forthright honor and entertainment, until my arrival.'

So he spoke, and she had no winged words for an answer,
 and she washed with water and put clean clothing upon her body,
 and vowed to all the gods the service of complete hecatombs,
 if Zeus were to grant requital for what had been done to them. 30

HOMER, *Odyssey* 17.31-60 (R. Lattimore; Harper and Row)

PASSAGE 2

Having acquired Pyrrhus' sceptre and wife, Andromache,
 Who thus had passed again to a man of her own people.
 I was astonished: I felt a wonderful strong desire
 To talk with Helenus and learn how it all happened.
 I set forth from the harbour, leaving our fleet on the shore; 5
 Just then, as it chanced, in a grove near the city, where flowed a make-believe
 Simois, was Andromache performing the sad and solemn
 Rites of the Dead, with wine for the ashes and invocations
 To the spirit, at Hector's cenotaph – an empty mound of green turf
 And twin altars the widow had consecrated to grief. 10
 When she caught sight of me coming and saw the Trojan accoutrements,
 She was frightened out of her wits by the marvel of it – her body
 Went rigid as she gazed, and the warmth ebbed from her bones.
 She fainted; after a long while she just managed to speak: –
 Are you real – this shape I see? Can you really bring me news, 15
 O goddess-born? Are you living? Or, if your day is done,
 Tell me, where's Hector?
 With these words, she burst into tears; one could hear
 Only her sobs.

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 3.296-313 (C. Day-Lewis; OUP)

Andromache, once wife of Hector, had for a second time taken a husband from
 her own people. I was astounded and the heart within me burned with love for the
 man and longing to meet him and find out about these great events. I was walking
 away from the harbour, leaving ships and shore behind me, when I caught sight of
 Andromache, offering a ritual meal and performing rites to the dead in a grove in 5
 front of a city on the banks of a river Simois, but not the true Simois of Troy. She was
 pouring a libation to the ashes of her husband Hector, calling on his shade to come
 to the empty tomb, a mound of green grass on which she had consecrated two
 altars. There she used to go and weep. When she saw me approaching with armed
 Trojans all about me, she was beside herself, numb with fear the moment she saw 10
 this great miracle, and the warmth of life went out of her bones. She fainted, and
 only after a long time was she at last able to speak to me: 'Is this a true vision? Is it
 a true messenger that comes to me, son of the goddess? Are you alive? If the light
 of life has left you, why are you here? Where is Hector?' As she spoke she burst into
 tears and her cries filled all the grove. 15

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 3.296-313 (D. West; Penguin)

- (a) What is the situation as the passage from the *Aeneid* begins? [10]
- (b) How typical is the way Telemachus behaves in Passage 1 of the way he behaves elsewhere
 in the *Odyssey*? [15]
- (c) 'Women are unstable creatures, always changing' (Virgil). Using these passages as a starting
 point, do you think this statement applies more to the way women are depicted in the *Odyssey*
 or in the *Aeneid*? [20]

[Quality of Written Communication: 5 marks]
 [Total: 50 marks]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.
Start your answer to each question on a new page.

- B3** 'Venus gives Aeneas more useful support than Athene gives Odysseus.' How far do you agree with this statement? [50]
- B4** Which epic places more emphasis on revenge, the *Odyssey* or the *Aeneid*? In your answer, you should include discussion of both poems. [50]
- B5** 'Anyone who imitates Homer is in danger of seeming feeble and second-rate' (Jenkyns). How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer, you should include discussion of both the *Odyssey* and the *Aeneid*. [50]

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