

ADVANCED GCE
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (JACT)

Greek and Roman Epic

THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2008

2749

Afternoon
Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials (enclosed): None

Additional materials (required):
Answer Booklet (8 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- 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**.

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.

5

PASSAGE 1

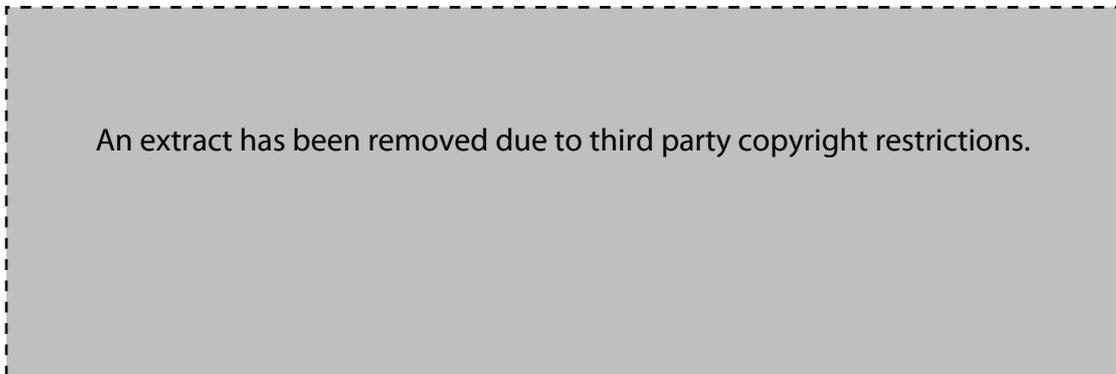
When the fierce glow from the olive stake warned me that it was about to catch alight in the flames, green as it was, I withdrew it from the fire and my men gathered round. A god now inspired them with tremendous courage. Seizing the olive pole, they drove its sharpened end into the Cyclops' eye, while I used my weight from above to twist it home, like a man boring a ship's timber with a drill which his mates below him twirl with a strap they hold at either end, so that it spins continuously. In much the same way we handled our pole with its red-hot point and twisted it in his eye till the blood boiled up round the burning wood. The scorching heat singed his lids and brow all round, while his eyeball blazed and the very roots crackled in the flame. The Cyclops' eye hissed round the olive stake in the same way that an axe or adze hisses when a smith plunges it into cold water to quench and strengthen the iron. He gave a dreadful shriek, which echoed round the rocky walls, and we backed away from him in terror, while he pulled the stake from his eye, streaming with blood.

10

HOMER, *Odyssey* 9.377-396 (E. V. Rieu; Penguin)

5

but when the beam of olive.....



10

15

.....and it blubbered with plenty of blood.

20

HOMER, *Odyssey* 9.378-397 (R. Lattimore; Harper and Row)

PASSAGE 2

“Why rush upon death like this? You’re too rash, fighting out of your class;
And your loyalty’s tempting you to your ruin.”

But Lausus continued

His crazy defiance. And now the Trojan commander’s rage
Boiled up more deeply, now the Fate-spinners passed through their fingers 5
The last threads of Lausus’ life; yes, Aeneas drove his strong sword
Right through the young man’s body, and buried it there to the hilt.
It penetrated his light shield, frail armour for so aggressive
A lad, and the tunic his mother had woven of pliant gold,
And soaked it with blood from his breast. Then the soul left the body, 10
Passing sadly away through the air to the land of shadows.
But when Aeneas beheld the dying boy’s look, his face –
A face that by now was strangely grey – he felt pity for him,
And a deep sigh escaped him; he stretched out his hand to Lausus,
Who had conjured up for his mind’s eye a picture of filial devotion:– 15
Poor lad, what now can I give you, to show how I honour your brave deed,
Or worthy of such a fine character? What can Aeneas do?
These arms you were so proud of, keep them; also, for what
It is worth, I give you back to the ashes and shades of your fathers.
At least it shall soften the edge of your piteous death for you, 20
That the great Aeneas caused it.

What’s more, he rebuked the hesitant

Comrades of Lausus, and lifted the body, its neatly ordered
Hair befouled with blood.

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 10.812-833 (C. Day Lewis; OUP)

‘Why are you in such a haste to die? Why do you take on tasks beyond your
strength? You are too rash. Your love for your father is deceiving you.’ But Lausus
was in full cry and his madness knew no check. At this the anger rose even higher
in the heart of the leader of the Trojans and the Fates gathered up the last threads 5
for Lausus. Aeneas drove his mighty sword through the middle of the young man’s
body, burying it to the hilt, the point going straight through his light shield, no proper
armour to match the threats he had uttered. It pierced, too, the tunic his mother had
woven for him with a soft thread of gold and filled the folds of it with blood. Then did
his life leave his body and go in sorrow through the air to join the shades.

But when Aeneas, son of Anchises, saw the dying face and features, the face 10
strangely white, he groaned from his heart in pity and held out his hand, as there
came into his mind the thought of his own devoted love for his father, and he said:
‘What will the devout Aeneas now give to match such merit? What gift can he give
that will be worthy of a heart like yours? Take your armour, that gave you so much 15
pleasure. Now I return you to the shades and the ashes of your ancestors, if that is
any comfort for you. In your misfortune you will have one consolation for your cruel
death, that you fell by the hand of the great Aeneas.’ At this he turned on Lausus’
comrades, railing at them as they hung back, while he lifted Lausus off the ground
where he was soiling his carefully tended hair with blood.

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 10.812-833 (D. West; Penguin)

- (a) What is the situation as the passage from the *Odyssey* begins? [10]
- (b) How typical is Aeneas' behaviour in Passage 2 of the way he behaves in Books 10-12 of the *Aeneid*? [15]
- (c) Using these passages as a starting point, discuss which epic treats the theme of physical conflict more effectively, the *Aeneid* or the *Odyssey*. [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

‘When we had left the island astern and no other land, or anything but sky and water, was to be seen, Zeus brought a sombre cloud to rest above the hollow ship so that the sea was darkened by its shadow. Before she had run very far, a howling wind suddenly sprang up from the West and hit us with hurricane force. The squall snapped both forestays simultaneously. As the mast toppled, all the rigging tumbled into the hold, and the mast itself, reaching the stern, struck the helmsman on the head and smashed in all the bones of his skull. He plunged like a diver from the deck, and his brave soul left his body. Then at one and the same moment Zeus thundered and struck the vessel with lightning. The whole ship reeled from the blow of his bolt and was filled with the smell of sulphur. My men were flung overboard and round the black hull they floated like sea-gulls on the waves. There was no homecoming for them: the god saw to that. 5

‘Meanwhile I kept shifting from one part of the ship to another, till a great wave tore her sides from her keel, which the sea then swept along denuded of its ribs. It snapped the mast off close to the keel, but as the backstay, which was a leather rope, had fallen across the mast, I used it to lash mast and keel together, and astride these two timbers I became the sport of the furious winds.’ 10 15

HOMER, *Odyssey* 12.403-425 (E. V. Rieu; Penguin)

‘But after we had left the island and there was no more land in sight, but only the sky and the sea, then Kronian Zeus drew on a blue-black cloud, and settled it over the hollow ship, and the open sea was darkened beneath it; and she ran on, but not for a very long time, as suddenly a screaming West Wind came upon us, stormily blowing, and the blast of the stormwind snapped both the forestays that were holding the mast, and the mast went over backwards, and all the running gear collapsed in the wash; and at the stern of the ship the mast pole crashed down on the steersman’s head and pounded to pieces all the bones of his head, so that he like a diver dropped from the high deck, and the proud life left his bones there. Zeus with thunder and lightning together crashed on our vessel, and, struck by the thunderbolt of Zeus, she spun in a circle, and all was full of brimstone. My men were thrown in the water, and bobbing like sea crows they were washed away on the running waves all around the black ship, and the god took away their homecoming. 5 10 15

‘But I went on my way through the vessel, to where the high seas had worked the keel free out of the hull, and the bare keel floated on the swell, which had broken the mast off at the keel; yet still there was a backstay made out of oxhide fastened to it. With this I lashed together both keel and mast, then rode the two of them, while the deadly stormwinds carried me.’ 20

HOMER, *Odyssey* 12.403-425 (R. Lattimore; Harper and Row)

PASSAGE 2

Thus did Iarbas pray, with his hands on the altar; and Jove
Omnipotent, hearing him, bent down his gaze upon Dido's
City and on those lovers lost to their higher fame.

Then he addressed Mercury, entrusting to him this errand: –

Go quick, my son, whistle up the Zephyrs and wing your way 5
Down to the Trojan leader, who is dallying now in Carthage
Without one thought for the city which fate has assigned to be his.
Carry my dictate along the hastening winds and tell him,
Not for such ways did his matchless mother guarantee him
To us, nor for such ends rescue him twice from the Greeks; 10
Rather, that he should rule an Italy fertile in leadership
And loud with war, should hand on a line which sprang from the noble
Teucer and bring the whole world under a system of law.
If the glory of such great exploits no longer fires his heart
And for his own renown he will make no effort at all, 15
Does he grudge his son, Ascanius, the glory of Rome to be?
What aim, what hope does he cherish, delaying there in a hostile
Land, with no thought for posterity or his Italian kingdom?
Let him sail. That is the gist. Give him that message from me.

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 4.220-238 (C. Day Lewis; OUP)

As Iarbas prayed these prayers with his hand on the altar, the All-powerful god
heard him and turned his eyes towards the royal city and the lovers who had lost
all recollection of their good name. Then he spoke to Mercury and gave him these
instructions: 'Up with you, my son. Call for the Zephyrs, glide down on your wings and
speak to the Trojan leader who now lingers in Tyrian Carthage without a thought for 5
the cities granted him by the Fates. Take these words of mine down to him through
the swift winds and tell him that this is not the man promised us by his mother, the
loveliest of the goddesses. It was not for this that she twice rescued him from the
swords of the Greeks. She told us he would be the man to rule an Italy pregnant
with empire and clamouring for war, passing the high blood of Teucer down to his 10
descendants and subduing the whole world under his laws. If the glory of such a
destiny does not fire his heart, if he does not strive to win fame for himself, ask him
if he grudges the citadel of Rome to his son Ascanius. What does he have in mind?
What does he hope to achieve dallying among a hostile people and sparing not a
thought for the Lavinian fields and his descendants yet to be born in Ausonia? He 15
must sail. That is all there is to say. Let that be our message.'

VIRGIL, *Aeneid* 4.220-238 (D. West; Penguin)

- (a) What is the situation as the passage from the *Aeneid* begins? [10]
- (b) How effectively does Homer make Passage 1 a vivid piece of narrative? [15]
- (c) Using these passages as a starting point, discuss which god you think has more influence on events, Zeus in the *Odyssey* or Jupiter in the *Aeneid*. [20]

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

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Start your answer on a new page.

- B3** 'Odysseus is tested much more than Aeneas.' How far do you agree with this statement? [50]
- B4** Which epic places more emphasis on the importance of family, the *Odyssey* or the *Aeneid*? In your answer you should include discussion of both poems. [50]
- B5** Which epic, the *Odyssey* or the *Aeneid*, holds the greater appeal for the modern reader? In your answer you should include discussion of both poems. [50]

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