

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS  
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**

**F382**

**CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

*Homer's Odyssey and Society*

**TUESDAY 17 MAY 2011: Afternoon**

**DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES**

**Candidates answer on the answer booklet.**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**16 page answer booklet  
(sent with general stationery)**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**None**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **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.**
- **Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.**

## **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.**

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**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.**

**‘Princess, I am at your knees. Are you some goddess or a mortal woman? If you are one of the gods who live in the wide heaven, it is of Artemis, the Daughter of almighty Zeus, that your beauty, grace and stature most remind me. But if you are one of us mortals who live on earth, then thrice-blessed indeed are your father and your lady mother; thrice-blessed your brothers too. How their hearts must glow with pleasure every time they see their darling join the dance! But he is the most blessed of them all who with his wedding gifts can win you and take you home as a bride. Never have I set eyes on any man or woman like you. I am overcome with awe as I look at you. Only in Delos have I seen the like, a fresh young palm-tree shooting up by the altar of Apollo, when my travels took me there – with a fine army at my back, that time, though the expedition was doomed to end so fatally for me. For a long time I stood spellbound at the sight, for no such sapling ever sprang from the ground.**

**5**  
**10**  
**15**  
**20**

**‘And it is with just the same wonder and  
veneration that I look at you, my lady, and I dare  
not clasp your knees, though my sufferings are  
serious enough. Only yesterday, after nineteen  
days, I made my escape from the wine-dark  
sea. It took all that time for the waves and the  
tempestuous winds to carry me here from the  
island of Ogygia. And now some god has flung  
me on this shore, no doubt to suffer more  
disasters here. For I have no hope that my  
troubles will come to an end: the gods have  
plenty in store for me before that can be. Pity  
me, princess.**

**25**

**30**

**35**

**Homer, *The Odyssey* Book 6 149–175**

- (a) What has happened to Odysseus between leaving Calypso’s island and speaking to Nausicaa? [10]**
- (b) How does Odysseus try to gain the pity of Nausicaa in this passage? In your answer you should include discussion of what he says and how he says it. [20]**
- (c) ‘some god has flung me on this shore, no doubt to suffer more disasters here’ (lines 30–32). How far do you think gods and goddesses are responsible for the troubles which Odysseus faces on his travels? [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.**

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. 5  
10  
15

One arrow lay loose on the table beside him; the rest, which the Achaean lords were soon to experience, were still inside their hollow quiver. He picked up this shaft, set it against the bridge of the bow, drew back the grooved end and the string together, all without rising from his stool, and, with a straight aim, shot. Not a single axe did he miss. From the first handle-ring, right through them all and out at the last the arrow sped with its burden of bronze. 20  
25

**Odysseus turned to his son. ‘Telemachus,’ he said, ‘the stranger sitting in your hall has not disgraced you. I did not miss the target, or make hard work of stringing the bow. My powers are unimpaired, and the Suitors did me an injustice when they disparaged me. But the time has come now to get their supper ready, while it is light, and after that to pass on to the further pleasures of music and dancing, which add to the delights of a banquet.’**

**30**  
**35**

**Homer, *The Odyssey* Book 21 406–431**

- (a) Describe how the contest of the bow has been set up and what has happened in it BEFORE this passage starts. [10]**
- (b) How does Homer make this passage a vivid piece of narrative? In your answer you should include discussion of what happens and the way it is written. [20]**
- (c) Why is Telemachus important to the story of the *Odyssey*? In your answer you should include discussion of what he does and how his portrayal contributes to the epic. [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 ‘Too human to be a hero.’ To what extent do you think Odysseus behaves in an heroic manner?**

**In your answer you should:**

- **consider how a hero should behave;**
- **discuss how far Odysseus behaves like a hero;**
- **support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**

**4 ‘Women are deceptive and not to be trusted in the *Odyssey*.’ How far do you agree with this opinion?**

**In your answer you should:**

- **consider the behaviour of BOTH goddesses AND mortal women;**
- **discuss how far they are to be trusted;**
- **support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**



**5 Which do you think contributes more to the success of the *Odyssey*, realism or fantasy?**

**In your answer you should:**

- **consider BOTH real AND unreal elements of the story and of the societies it depicts;**
- **discuss whether realism or fantasy is more successful and why;**
- **support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**

**[Section B Total: 45]**

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