

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
AS GCE**

F382

CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Homer's *Odyssey* and Society

THURSDAY 24 MAY 2012: Afternoon

**DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

MODIFIED ENLARGED

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

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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QUESTION 1 BEGINS ON PAGE 4

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.

“Good sir, remember your duty to the gods; we are your suppliants, and Zeus is the champion of suppliants and guests. He is the god of guests: guests are sacred to him, and he goes alongside them.”

5

‘That is what I said, and he answered me promptly out of his pitiless heart: “Stranger, you must be a fool, or must have come from very far afield, to order me to fear or reverence the gods. We Cyclopes care nothing for Zeus with his aegis, nor for the rest of the blessed gods, since we are much stronger than they are. I would never spare you or your men for fear of incurring Zeus’ enmity, unless I felt like it. But tell me where you moored your good ship when you came. Was it somewhere along the coast, or nearby? I’d like to know.”

10

15

‘His words were designed to get the better of me, but he could not outwit someone with my knowledge of the world. I answered with plausible words: “As for my ship, it was wrecked by the Earthshaker Poseidon on the borders of your land. The wind had carried us on to a lee

20

shore. He drove the ship up to a headland and
hurled it on the rocks. But I and my friends here 25
managed to escape with our lives.”

‘To this the cruel brute made no reply.
Instead, he jumped up, and reaching out towards
my men, seized a couple and dashed their 30
heads against the floor as though they had been
puppies. Their brains ran out on the ground and
soaked the earth. Limb by limb he tore them to
pieces to make his meal, which he devoured like
a mountain lion, leaving nothing, neither entrails 35
nor flesh, marrow nor bones, while we, weeping,
lifted up our hands to Zeus in horror at the
ghastly sight. We felt completely helpless. When
the Cyclops had filled his great belly with this
meal of human flesh, which he washed down 40
with unwatered milk, he stretched himself out
for sleep among his flocks inside the cave.

Homer, *Odyssey* Book 9 269–298

- (a) What has Odysseus already told the Phaeacians about his travels before the beginning of this passage? [10]
- (b) How does Homer make this passage shocking and horrific? In your answer you should include discussion of what is said and done, and the way it is written. [20]
- (c) In what ways do the supernatural happenings Odysseus has encountered during his travels add to the success of the *Odyssey*? In your answer you should include discussion of a range of strange events from Books 5–12 and what they contribute to the poem. [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.

The great goddess then endowed her with immortal gifts to make the Achaeans marvel at her beauty. First she cleansed her fair cheeks with a divine ointment used by Aphrodite when she puts on her lovely crown to join the Graces in their charming dance. Then she made her taller and fuller in appearance, and her skin whiter than newly sawn ivory. When her work was done the goddess withdrew, and the white-armed maids came up from another part of the house, chattering. Penelope woke up, rubbed her cheeks with her hands and exclaimed: 'What a wonderful sleep, in spite of all my troubles! I wish holy Artemis would grant me a death as gentle as that this very moment, and save me from wasting my life in anguish and longing for my dear husband, who had all the virtues, and was the finest man in all Achaea.'

Then she left her bright room and went downstairs, not by herself, but with the two waiting-women. When she came near to her Suitors the great lady drew a fold of her shining veil across her cheeks and took her stand by a pillar of the massive roof, with a faithful maid on either side.

The Suitors went weak at the knees. Their

hearts melted with desire, and every man among them voiced a prayer that he might sleep with her. But Penelope turned to her dear son. 'Telemachus,' she said, 'your sense and judgement aren't what they were.' 30

Homer, *Odyssey* Book 18 190–217

- (a) Briefly outline what the Suitors have done in the *Odyssey* up to this point. [10]
- (b) How is Penelope shown in this passage to be a beautiful and desirable woman? In your answer you should include discussion of what is said and done and the way it is written. [20]
- (c) 'A woman in conflict not only with herself but also with everyone around her.' How far do you agree with this description of Penelope in the *Odyssey*? In your answer you should include discussion of the people she meets, the emotions she feels and the decisions she makes. [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 ‘Odysseus is successful because of his skills in speaking.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

In your answer you should:

- **consider a number of occasions where Odysseus succeeds;**
- **discuss whether his success is due to his skills in speaking or for other reasons;**
- **use evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**

- 4 To what extent does the *Odyssey* demonstrate the importance of hospitality (*xenia*) in Homeric society?**

In your answer you should:

- **consider the different ways guest-friendship is shown in the epic;**
- **discuss how far the importance of following the rules of hospitality is highlighted;**
- **use evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**

- 5 Which half of the *Odyssey* did you enjoy more, Books 1–12 (Telemachus and the journey of Odysseus) or Books 13–24 (events after Odysseus' arrival in Ithaca)?**

In your answer you should:

- **consider what happens in BOTH halves of the *Odyssey* AND the way the story is told;**
- **discuss which half you enjoyed more, and why;**
- **use evidence from the *Odyssey*. [45]**

[Section B Total: 45]

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