



2011 Classical Greek

Intermediate 2 – Interpretation

Finalised Marking Instructions

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2011 Classical Greek

Intermediate 2

Interpretation

Thucydides

1. (a)
- cut passages through connecting walls of houses
 - so that they could meet
 - made barricades in the streets with wagons
 - made other useful preparations
 - went forth to attack just before dawn

1 mark for each point, up to 3

3

- (b)
- they were able to prepare in secret
 - possible to make passages and barricades + obstruction caused as on home territory
 - it was still dark
 - they made a surprise attack
 - they knew the city whereas the Thebans did not

1 mark for each point, up to 3

3

- 2.
- 3 different escape routes plus 1 other mode of death: interesting
 - failure of all escape routes for Thebans: atmosphere of doom
 - details of closure of gate with javelin spike as pin: vivid
 - attempt to escape over wall: vivid
 - woman giving an axe to cut through bar of gate: human touch engaging
 - 4 descriptions lead on to description of imprisonment in large building after this passage
 - details arouse interest and sympathy in reader

1 mark for each point or development of point, up to 4

4

- 3.
- gives exact date and circumstances of outbreak of war
 - so we feel we can rely on him as historian
 - gives details of attack on Plataea
 - gives both versions of Theban/Plataean oath
 - so we feel he is fair
 - gives details of history of plague and its outbreak in Athens
 - so we regard him as objective, not subjective
 - claims to have had personal experience of the plague
 - does not suggest any supernatural intervention
 - any other valid point

1 mark for each general point and 1 mark for each detailed reference to the text, up to 5

5

4. (a)
- he has had a meal (of human flesh)
 - he can see what kind of wine Odysseus has brought from his ship
 - it is a drink offering
 - Odysseus hopes Cyclops will have pity

1 mark for each point, up to 2

2

- (b)
- very candid about hope for pity and wish to be sent home
 - mentioning Cyclops' mad rage is foolhardy
 - being rude to him and threatening him does not seem a good way to proceed
 - threatening him with a lack of visitors in future seems ineffective/ foolhardy at least
 - we would expect Odysseus' words to be tactful and persuasive

1 mark for each point, up to 2

2

5. (a) first simile: Odysseus turns pole while men thrust it into Cyclops' eye
as when a man drills a ship's beam
while his men below keep it spinning

second simile: the eye hisses round the pole
as when a smith dips axe/adze in cold water
and the water hisses

1 mark for each point, up to 4

4

- (b) effective:
- graphic scenes
 - scenes from everyday life, so familiar
 - size of Cyclops emphasised (first)
 - whirling/drilling well emphasised (first)
 - hissing emphasised (second)
 - comparison gross (second)

not effective: scenes unfamiliar to modern reader
details don't work out:
(first) thrusting and spinning reversed
(second) blood, fire and burning have
no comparison

1 mark for each point, up to 2

2

6. Odysseus good on the whole Cyclops evil on the whole
- a civilised Greek man • a brutal monster
 - clever and resourceful • stupid
 - bold and daring • likes a humdrum life
 - cool in a crisis • very disturbed and angry in a crisis
- BUT
- careless of his men's safety • cares for his animals
 - as leader he is supported by his men • alone, in effect not supported by others
- both break the rules of guest friendship

1 mark for each general point and 1 mark for each detailed reference to the text, up to 5

5

(30)

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]