

Modified Enlarged 18pt

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 16 May 2023 – Afternoon

A Level Classical Civilisation

H408/11 The World of the Hero

**Time allowed: 2 hours 20 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

**YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet**

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.

Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.

This question paper has THREE sections:

Section A – Homer: Answer EITHER ALL the questions on ‘Iliad’ OR ALL the questions on ‘Odyssey’.

Section B – Virgil: Answer ALL the questions.

Section C – Homer and Virgil: Answer Question 7 and ONE question from Questions 8, 9 and 10.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 100.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A: Homer

Answer ALL the questions on the text you have studied.

Homer's 'Iliad'

Choose ONE translation of the 'Iliad' and answer the questions.

PASSAGE A

Homer, 'Iliad', 3.384–420

Aphrodite found Helen on the high tower,
surrounded by Trojan women. The goddess put out
her hand, tugged at her sweet-smelling robe and
spoke to her in the disguise of an old woman she
was very fond of, a wool-worker who used to comb 5
the wool for Helen when she lived in Lacedaemon.
Mimicking this woman, celestial Aphrodite spoke to
her:

'Come here! Paris wants you to go home to him.
There he is in his bedroom, on the inlaid bed, 10
dazzling in looks and dress. You would never believe
he had just come from a duel. You would think he
was going to a dance or had just stepped off the
floor and sat down to rest.'

So she spoke, and her words went straight to 15
Helen's heart. But when she noticed the superb
neck, desirable breasts and sparkling eyes of the
goddess, she was shocked and spoke to her:

'Mysterious goddess, why are you trying to lead
me on like this? You are plotting, I suppose, to carry 20
me off to some still more distant town, in Phrygia
or lovely Maeonia, to gratify some other favourite of
yours who may be living in those parts. Or is it that
Menelaus has beaten Paris and wants to take me

back home, me, his loathsome wife – so now you 25
have come to try to lure me back to Paris?

‘No, go and sit with him yourself. Forget you are a
goddess. Never set foot on Olympus again but go
and agonize over Paris, go and pamper him, and one 30
day he may make you his wife – or his concubine.
I refuse to go and share this man’s bed again – it
would be quite wrong. There is not a woman in Troy
who would not blame me if I did. I have enough
trouble to put up with already.’

Enraged, celestial Aphrodite spoke to her: 35

‘Obstinate wretch! Don’t get the wrong side of
me, or I may desert you in my anger and detest you
as vehemently as I have loved you up till now, and
provoke Greeks and Trojans alike to such hatred of
you that you would come to a dreadful end.’ 40

So she spoke, and Helen, child of Zeus, was
terrified. She wrapped herself up in her shining
white robe and went off in silence.

Translation: E.V. Rieu

OR

She found her on the rampart, with a throng of
Trojan women round her. So the goddess stretched
out her hand to pluck at Helen’s perfumed robes,
and spoke to her, disguised as an old and dearly
loved wool-carder, who combed the fine wool for 5
Helen when she lived in Lacedaemon. ‘Come,’ cried
the goddess, ‘Paris calls for you. He lies on his
inlaid bed in his room, radiant with beauty in his fine
garments. You would never guess he had come from
a fight: rather that he was off to the dance or resting 10
after dancing.’

Helen was roused by her words then struck with wonder, as the goddess revealed her lovely neck and shoulders, and her bright eyes. She addressed her, saying: ‘Goddess, why choose to deceive me so? Now Menelaus has beaten noble Paris, and wants to drag his shameful wife home, would you have me follow you to some great city in Phrygia or sweet Maeonia, destined for some other man dear to you? Is that why you come here full of guile? Go yourself, and sit beside him, forget your deity, abandon Olympus, fret over him and pamper him, be his wife then, or at least his slave. I shall not run, for shame, to share his bed again; the Trojan women would scorn me if I did, and anyway my heart is full of sorrow.’

Fair Aphrodite turned on her, in anger: ‘Obstinate woman, provoke me to fury and I’ll desert you, and hate you as deeply as I still love you yet, and bring on you the fierce enmity of Trojan and Greek alike; then indeed would your fate be evil.’

Zeus-begotten Helen was gripped by fear, as she spoke, and wrapping herself in her bright shining mantle, followed the goddess without a word.

Translation: A.S. Kline

- 1 Explain how Helen is presented in **PASSAGE A**. Use references to the passage to support your answer. [10]
- 2* Explain how a good mortal woman was expected to behave in the ‘Iliad’. You may use **PASSAGE A** as a starting point, and your knowledge of the ‘Iliad’ in your answer. [20]

Homer's 'Odyssey'

Choose ONE translation of the 'Odyssey' and answer the questions.

PASSAGE B

Homer, 'Odyssey', 18.242–274

Then Eurymachus said to Penelope: 'Daughter of Icarius, wise Penelope, if all the Achaeans in Ionian Argos could set eyes on you, even more Suitors would be feasting in your halls tomorrow, for in loveliness of face and form, and in wisdom, you are supreme among women.'

5

'Ah, Eurymachus,' the prudent Penelope replied, 'the gods destroyed my loveliness of face and form and my pre-eminence when the Argives embarked for Ilium and my husband Odysseus went with them. If he could return and devote himself to me, my good name would indeed be embellished and enhanced. But I am left to my misery: a power above has heaped so many troubles on my head. When he left this land of his, he gently took me by the wrist of my right hand and said: "Wife, I do not think all the Achaean soldiers will return from Troy unhurt. For they say the Trojans are good fighters too, both with javelin and bow, and as charioteers, who can tip the scales in an evenly matched battle more quickly than anything. So I cannot say whether the gods will let me come back or whether I shall fall there on the Trojan soil. But I leave everything here in your charge. Look after my father and mother in the house as you do now, or with even greater care when I am gone. And when you see a beard on our boy's chin, marry whom you want to and leave your home." That is what he said; and now it is all coming

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true. I see approaching me the night when I must
accept a detestable union. It will be the end of me;
Zeus has destroyed my happiness.' 30

Translation: E.V. Rieu

OR

Eurymachus spoke to Penelope, saying: 'Wise
Penelope, Icarius' daughter, if all the Achaeans in
lasian Argos had sight of you, even more Suitors
would feast in your halls tomorrow. In beauty, form
and intellect you exceed all other women.' 5

'Eurymachus', wise Penelope replied, 'all my
excellence of form and beauty the gods robbed
me of that day when the Argives sailed for Ilium,
my husband Odysseus with them. If only he might
return and cherish this life of mine, I might deserve a 10
greater and more glorious fame. But so many are the
troubles a god has heaped upon me, I only grieve.
When he sailed away, forsaking his own land, did he
not take me by the wrist of my right hand and say:
"My wife I think not all the bronze-greaved Achaeans 15
will get home safe and unharmed from Troy. They
say the Trojans are true warriors, good with both
spear and bow, charioteers whose swift horses soon
tip the balance in the thick of a fight. So I cannot tell
if the god will bring me home, or whether I'll die on 20
the plains of Troy. Therefore you must take charge
here. Look after my father and mother in the palace
as at present, or more so as I am far away. But when
my son reaches manhood, marry whoever you wish,
and leave home." 25

Now all is happening as he foresaw. A hateful

wedding night will be my cursed fate, I whose happiness Zeus has destroyed.

Translation: A.S. Kline

3 Explain how Penelope is presented in PASSAGE B.

Use references to the passage to support your answer. [10]

4* Explain how a good mortal woman was expected to behave in the ‘Odyssey’.

You may use PASSAGE B as a starting point, and your knowledge of the ‘Odyssey’ in your answer. [20]

[SECTION A TOTAL: 30]

SECTION B: Virgil

Choose ONE translation of the 'Aeneid' and answer the questions.

PASSAGE C

Virgil, 'Aeneid', 12.854–884

One of these Jupiter sent swiftly down from the heights of heaven with orders to confront Juturna as an omen. She flew to earth, carried in a swift whirlwind. Like an arrow going through a cloud, spun from the bowstring of a Parthian who has
5 armed the barb with a virulent poison for which there is no cure, a Parthian, or a Cretan from Cydonia; and it whirrs as it flies unseen through the swift darkness – so flew the daughter of Night, making for the earth. When she saw the Trojan battle lines and
10 the army of Turnus, she took in an instant the shape of the little bird which perches on tombs and the gables of empty houses and sings late its ill-omened song among the shades of night. In this guise the monster flew again and again at Turnus' face,
15 screeching and beating his shield with her wings. A strange numbness came over him and his bones melted with fear. His hair stood on end and the voice stuck in his throat.

His sister Juturna recognized the Dira from a long
20 way off by the whirring of her wings, and grieved. She loosened and tore her hair. She scratched her face and beat her breast, crying: 'What can your sister do to help you now, Turnus? Much have I endured but nothing now remains for me, and I
25 have no art that could prolong your life. How can I set myself against such a portent? At last, at last, I leave the battle. Do not frighten me, you birds of

evil omen. I am already afraid. I know the beating of
your wings and the sound of death. I do not fail to 30
understand the proud commands of great-hearted
Jupiter. Is this his reward for my lost virginity? For
what purpose has he granted me eternal life? Why
has he deprived me of the state of death? But for
that I could at least have put an end to my suffering 35
and borne my poor brother company through the
shades. So this is immortality! Will anything that is
mine be sweet to me without you, my brother?’

Translation: D. West

OR

Jupiter sent one of them quickly down from heaven's heights
and ordered her to meet with Juturna as a sign:
she flew, and darted to earth in a swift whirlwind.
Like an arrow loosed from the string, through the clouds,
that a Parthian, a Parthian or a Cydonian, fired,
hissing, and leaping unseen through the swift shadows,
a shaft beyond all cure, armed with cruel poison's venom:
so sped the daughter of Night, seeking the earth.
As soon as she saw the Trojan ranks and Turnus's troops,
she changed her shape, suddenly shrinking to the form of that
small bird that perching at night on tombs or deserted rooftops,
often sings her troubling song so late among the shadows –
and the fiend flew screeching to and fro in front
of Turnus's face, and beat at his shield with her wings.
A strange numbness loosed his limbs in dread,
his hair stood up in terror, and his voice clung to his throat.
But when his wretched sister Juturna recognised the Dread One's
whirring wings in the distance, she tore at her loosened hair, marring
her face with her nails, and her breasts with her clenched hands:
'What help can your sister give you now, Turnus?
What is left for me who have suffered so? With what art
can I prolong your life? Can I stand against such a portent?
Now at last I leave the ranks. Bird of ill-omen, do not you
terrify me who already am afraid: I know your wing-beats
and their fatal sound, and I do not mistake the proud command

of great-hearted Jupiter. Is this his reward for my virginity?
Why did he grant me eternal life? Why is the mortal condition
taken from me? Then, at least, I could end such pain
and go through the shadows at my poor brother's side!
An immortal, I? Can anything be sweet to me without you
my brother?

30

Translation: A.S. Kline

5 Explain why PASSAGE C is a memorable piece of writing.

Use references to the passage to support your answer. [10]

6* 'Turnus did not deserve to die.'

Explain how far you agree with this statement.

You may use PASSAGE C as a starting point, and your knowledge of the 'Aeneid' in your answer. [20]

[SECTION B TOTAL: 30]

SECTION C: Homer and Virgil

Use the passages in SECTIONS A and B to answer Question 7.

- 7 Discuss who you think shows the greater strength of character, Juturna or Helen/Penelope. You should refer to the passage from the ‘Aeneid’ AND the passage from the work of Homer you have read. [10]**

Answer ONE question from Questions 8, 9 and 10.

Use classical sources, and secondary sources, scholars and/or academic works to support your argument. You should also consider possible interpretations of sources by different audiences.

EITHER

Homer’s ‘Iliad’

- 8* ‘Anger (menis) is at the heart of the whole of the ‘Iliad’.’**

Explain how far you agree with this statement. Justify your answer with close reference to the ‘Iliad’. [30]

OR

Homer's 'Odyssey'

9* 'Odysseus' character is as complex as the plot of the 'Odyssey'.

Explain how far you agree with this statement. Justify your answer with close reference to the 'Odyssey'.

[30]

OR

Virgil's 'Aeneid'

10* Explain why Fate is important in the 'Aeneid' AND discuss the extent to which Fate is influenced by the gods and goddesses. Justify your answer with close reference to the 'Aeneid'. [30]

[SECTION C TOTAL: 40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER



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