

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
A2 GCE
F390

CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Virgil and the world of the hero

MONDAY 11 JUNE 2012: Afternoon

DURATION: 2 hours

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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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 FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

Turnus was laughing as he made his reply to the priestess: ‘You are wrong. The report has not failed to reach my ears. I know a fleet has sailed into the waters of the Thybris. Do not invent these fears for me. Royal Juno has not entirely forgotten us. It is old age and decay that cause you all this futile agitation and distress and make you barren of truth, taking a prophetess among warring kings and making a fool of her with false fears. Your duty is to guard the statues of the gods and their temples. Leave peace and war to men. War is the business of men.’ 5 10

When she heard the warrior’s words Allecto burst into blazing anger, and while he was still replying, a sudden trembling came over his limbs and the eyes stared in his head as the Fury revealed herself in her full size and set all her hydras hissing. As he faltered and tried to go on speaking, she flung him back with her eyes flashing fire, two snakes stood up on her head and she cracked her whips as she spoke again from her now maddened lips: ‘So I am old and decayed and barren of truth and old age is taking me among warring kings and making a fool of me with false fears! Have a look at these! I come here 15 20 25

from the home of the dread Furies, my sisters, and in my hands I carry war and death.'

With these words she threw a burning torch at the warrior and it lodged deep in his heart, smoking with black light. A great terror burst in upon his sleep, and the sweat broke out all over his body and soaked him to the bone. In a frenzy of rage he roared for his armour. 'My armour!' he shouted, ransacking his bed and the whole palace for it. The lust for battle raged within him, the criminal madness of war and, above all, anger. It was as though a heap of brushwood were crackling and burning under the sides of a bronze vessel, making the water seethe and leap up, a great river of it raging in the pot, with boiling foam spilling over and dense steam flying into the air. The peace was violated. Turnus gave orders to the leaders of his army to march to king Latinus, to prepare for war, to defend Italy and thrust the enemy out of its borders. When he arrived, that would be enough for the Trojans, and enough for the Latins. These were his words and he called upon the gods to witness them. The eager Rutulians urged each other to arms, some of them inspired by the rare grace of his youthful beauty, some by the long line of kings that were his ancestors, some by his brilliant feats of arms.

Virgil, *Aeneid* Book 7 436–475

- (a) How successfully does Virgil make this passage a vivid piece of writing? [25]
- (b) 'Innocent victim or barbaric savage.' Using this passage as a starting point, discuss which you think is the more accurate description of Turnus in the books of the *Aeneid* you have studied. [25]

Do NOT answer this question if you have already answered Question 1.

MARKS ARE AWARDED FOR THE QUALITY OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN YOUR ANSWER.

2 Read the passages and answer the questions.

PASSAGE 1

So he spoke, and then he put glorious Hektor to shameful treatment. He cut through behind the tendons of both feet from heel to ankle, and pulled straps of ox-hide through them which he tied fast to his chariot, so the head would be left to drag. Then he mounted the chariot and lifted the famous armour into it, and whipped the horses on, and they flew eagerly on their way. As Hektor was dragged behind, a cloud of dust arose from him, his dark hair streamed out round him, and all that once handsome head was sunk in the dust: but now Zeus had given him to his enemies to defile him in his own native land. 5 10

So Hektor's head was all sullied in the dust. And now his mother tore her hair, and flung the shining mantle away from her head, and raised a great wail when she saw her son. And his dear father groaned pitiably, and around them and all through the city the people were overcome with wailing and groans of lamentation. It was just like it would be if all of beetling Ilios were fired and smouldering from top to bottom. The people could hardly hold back the old man in his anguish, as he tried urgently to get out through the Dardanian gate. He rolled there in the dung and implored them all, calling on each man by name: 'Let me 15 20 25

be, friends, for all your care for me – let me go
out of the city alone and come to the ships of
the Achaians, so I can make supplication to this
monstrous man, this criminal. He might have 30
respect for my years and pity my old age: he too
has a father old like me, Peleus, who sired and
reared him to be a curse on the Trojans – and it
is on me above all that he has brought the most
sorrow, so many are the sons of mine in their 35
bloom that he has killed. But all my grief for these,
much though I mourn them, is less than my grief
for one, and piercing sorrow for him will bring me
down into Hades – for Hektor. How I wish that he
could have died in my arms! Then we could have 40
satisfied our desire for weeping and mourning, I
and his mother who bore him in a cruel fate.'

Homer, *Iliad* Book 22 396–428

PASSAGE 2

‘These are the possessions of Aeneas which I so loved while God and the Fates allowed it. Let them receive my spirit and free me from this anguish. I have lived my life and completed the course that Fortune has set before me, and now my great spirit will go beneath the earth. I have founded a glorious city and lived to see the building of my own walls. I have avenged my husband and punished his enemy who was my brother. I would have been happy, more than happy, if only Trojan keels had never grounded on our shores.’ She then buried her face for a moment in the bed and cried: ‘We shall die unavenged. But let us die. This, this, is how it pleases me to go down among the shades. Let the Trojan who knows no pity gaze his fill upon this fire from the high seas and take with him the omen of my death.’

So she spoke and while speaking fell upon the sword. Her attendants saw her fall. They saw the blood foaming on the blade and staining her hands, and filled the high walls of the palace with their screaming. Rumour ran raving like a Bacchant through the stricken city. The palace rang with lamentation and groaning and the wailing of women and the heavens gave back the sound of mourning. It was as though the enemy were within the gates and the whole of Carthage or old Tyre were falling with flames raging and rolling over the roofs of men and gods. Anna heard and was beside herself. She came rushing in terror through the middle of the crowd, tearing her face and beating her breast, calling out her sister’s name as she lay dying: ‘So this is what it meant? It was all to deceive your sister! This was

the purpose of the pyre and the flames and the altars! You have abandoned me. I do not know how to begin to reproach you. Did you not want your sister's company when you were dying? You could have called me to share your fate and we would both have died in the same moment of the same grief. To think it was my hands that built the pyre, and my voice that called upon the gods of our fathers, so that you could be so cruel as to lay yourself down here to die without me. 40 45

Virgil, *Aeneid* Book 4 651–683

- (a) Using Passage 2 as a starting point, discuss who you think was most responsible for the downfall and death of Dido. [25]
- (b) Whose death do you consider to be the more tragic, Dido's or Hektor's?
You should use these passages as a starting point and include discussion of BOTH Book 4 of the *Aeneid* AND Book 22 of the *Iliad*. [25]

[Section A Total: 50]

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 'A perfect role-model for Romans.' How far do you agree with this description of Aeneas? [50]**

- 4 'The gods and goddesses of the *Aeneid* are more caring and compassionate than those of the *Iliad*.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? [50]**

[Section B Total: 50]

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