

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
AS GCE**

F382/01

CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Homer's 'Odyssey' and Society

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2014: Afternoon

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

MODIFIED ENLARGED

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

12 page Answer Booklet (sent with general stationery)

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Complete the boxes on the Answer Booklet with your name, centre number and candidate number.

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.

Start your answer to each question on a new page.

Write the number of each question answered in the margin.

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.

Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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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 quality of written communication in your answer.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

‘King Alcinous, most illustrious of all your people, it is indeed a lovely thing to hear a bard such as this, with a voice like the voice of the gods. I myself feel that there is nothing more delightful than when the festive mood reigns in the hearts of all the people and the banqueters listen to a minstrel from their seats in the hall, while the tables before them are laden with bread and meat, and a steward carries round the wine he has drawn from the bowl and fills their cups. This, to my way of thinking, is perfection. 5 10

‘However, your heart has prompted you to ask me about my troubles, and that intensified my grief. Well, where shall I begin, where end, my tale? For the list of woes which the gods in heaven have sent me is a long one. I shall start by giving you my name: I wish you all to know it so that in times to come, if I escape the evil day, I may always be your friend, though my home is far from here. 15 20

‘I am Odysseus, Laertes’ son. The whole world talks of my stratagems, and my fame has reached the heavens. My home is under the clear skies of Ithaca. Our landmark is Mount Neriton with its quivering leaves. Other islands 25

are clustered round it, Dulichium and Same and wooded Zacynthus. But Ithaca, the farthest out to sea, lies slanting to the west, whereas the others face the dawn and rising sun. It is a rough land, but nurtures fine men. And I, for one, know of no sweeter sight for a man's eyes than his own country. The divine Calypso was certainly for keeping me in her cavern home because she yearned for me to be her husband and with the same object Circe, the Aeaean witch, detained me in her palace; but never for a moment did they win my heart. So true it is that a man's fatherland and his parents are what he holds sweetest, even though he has settled far away from his people in some rich home in foreign lands.

Homer, 'Odyssey' Book 9 3–36

- (a) What has Odysseus done from the point when he meets Alcinous and Arete in their palace to the start of this passage? [10]
- (b) How does Odysseus show his love of his homeland in this passage? In your answer you should discuss what he says about his homeland and the way he says it. [20]
- (c) 'A pointless and dull episode.' How far do you agree with this description of what happens in the land of the Phaeacians? In your answer you should discuss BOTH what takes place AND consider whether the episode adds anything to the epic. [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 quality of written communication in your answer.

2 Read the passage and answer the questions.

Odysseus took aim and shot him [Antinous] in the neck. The point passed clean through his tender throat. The cup dropped from his hand as he was hit and he lurched over to one side. His life-blood gushed from his nostrils in a turbid jet. His foot lashed out and kicked the table from him; his food was scattered on the ground, and bread and meat lay there in the dirt. 5

When the Suitors saw the man collapse, there was uproar in the hall. They sprang from their chairs and rushed in confusion about the room, searching the solid walls on every side. But not a shield or sturdy spear was there to lay hands on. They rounded in fury on Odysseus: ‘Stranger, men make a dangerous target; you have played your last match. Now you shall surely die. You have killed the greatest nobleman in Ithaca: for that the vultures shall eat you.’ Each of them laboured under the delusion that he had killed the man by accident. It had not dawned upon the fools that the fate of all of them was sealed. The master-strategist Odysseus gave them a black look. ‘You dogs!’ he cried. ‘You never thought to see me back from Troy. So you fleeced my household; you raped my maids; you courted my wife behind my back though I was alive – with no more fear of the gods in heaven than of the human vengeance that might come. One and all, your fate is sealed.’ 10 15 20 25

Fear drained the colour from their cheeks and each man cast round to find some sanctuary from sudden death. 30

Homer, 'Odyssey' Book 22 15–43

- (a) What has happened between Penelope taking the bow out of the storeroom and the start of this passage? [10]**
- (b) How does Homer make this passage vivid and dramatic? In your answer you should discuss what is said and done and the way it is written. [20]**
- (c) In what ways do recognition scenes add to the success of the 'Odyssey'? In your answer you should discuss a range of recognition scenes and what they contribute to the poem. [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 How far do you think Odysseus is responsible for the sufferings of his men?

In your answer you should:

consider what happens to Odysseus' men during their travels;

discuss the extent to which Odysseus is to blame for their hardships;

support your answer with evidence from the 'Odyssey'. [45]

- 4 ‘Of all the gods and goddesses in the ‘Odyssey’, Athene is the most important in determining what happens.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

In your answer you should:

consider the actions of a range of gods and goddesses;

discuss their importance in what takes place in the epic;

support your answer with evidence from the ‘Odyssey’. [45]

- 5 ‘Servants were always bad and could never be trusted.’ To what extent do you think this is true of the way servants are portrayed in Homeric society?**

In your answer you should:

consider the behaviour of a range of male and female servants (slaves);

discuss whether they behave in a way expected of servants (slaves) in Homeric society;

support your answer with evidence from the ‘Odyssey’. [45]

[SECTION B TOTAL: 45]

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