

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS  
AS GCE**

**F384/01**

**CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

**Greek Tragedy in its context**

**TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2015: Morning**

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

**MODIFIED ENLARGED 24pt**

**Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**12-page Answer Booklet (OCR12)  
(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 the quality of written communication in your answer.**

**1 Read the passage and answer the questions.**

**LEADER:**

**Coward, why not kill the man yourself?**

**Why did the woman, the corruption of Greece and the gods of Greece, have to bring him down?**

***Orestes* –**

**If he still sees the light of day,  
bring him home, good Fates, home to kill  
this pair at last. Our champion in slaughter!**

**5**

**AEGISTHUS:**

**Bent on insolence? Well, you'll learn, quickly.  
At them, men – you have your work at hand!**

**LEADER:**

**At them, fist at the hilt, to the last man –**

**10**

**AEGISTHUS:**

**Fist at the hilt, I'm not afraid to die.**

**LEADER:**

**It's death you want and death you'll have –  
We'll make the word your last.**

**CLYTAEMNESTRA:**

**No more, my dearest,  
no more grief. We have too much to reap  
right here, our mighty harvest of despair.  
Our lives are based on pain. No bloodshed now.**

**15**

Fathers of Argos, turn for home before you act  
and suffer for it. What we did was destiny. 20  
If we could end the suffering, how we would rejoice.  
The spirit's brutal hoof has struck our heart.  
And that is what a woman has to say.  
Can you accept the truth?

**AEGISTHUS:**

But these ... mouths  
that bloom in filth – spitting insults in my teeth. 25  
You tempt your fates, you insubordinate dogs –  
to hurl abuse at me, your master!

**LEADER:**

No Greek  
worth his salt would grovel at your feet.

**AEGISTHUS:**

I – I'll stalk you all your days! 30

**LEADER:**

Not if the spirit brings Orestes home.

**AEGISTHUS:**

Exiles feed on hope – well I know.

**LEADER:**

More,  
gorge yourself to bursting – soil justice, while you can.

**AEGISTHUS:**

I promise you, you'll pay, old fools – in good time, too! 35

**LEADER:**

Strut on your own dunghill, you cock beside your mate.

**CLYTAEMNESTRA:**

Let them howl – they're impotent. You and I have power now.  
We will set the house in order once for all.

Aeschylus, 'Agamemnon' 1676–1708

- (a) Briefly describe the events from Agamemnon's entry into the palace to the start of this passage. [10]**
- (b) How effectively does Aeschylus make this passage a dramatic ending to the play? In your answer, you should include discussion of the situation on stage and the language used. [20]**
- (c) 'Clytaemnestra completely dominates all the male characters in the play.' How far do you agree with this statement? [25]**

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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.

**CLYTEMNESTRA:**

Listen: I know my tongue  
Is sometimes bitter; that's because I'm spoken of  
As a bad woman. I agree, one should not speak  
Bitterly. But when people judge someone, they ought  
To learn the facts, and then hate, if they've reason to. 5  
And if they find no reason, then they should not hate.

When I married your father, I did not expect  
To die, or see my children killed. He took my child  
To Aulis, where the fleet lay bound; lured her from home  
With lies about Achilles; held her high above 10  
The altar; then her father cut her soft white throat –  
My Iphigenia. If he had done it to avert  
The capture of his city, or to exalt his house;  
Or if, to save his other children, he had taken  
One life for many, he could be forgiven. But no: 15  
Helen was a whore, her husband didn't know how to handle  
A randy wife; and *that* was Agamemnon's reason  
For murdering my daughter. All the same, for that –  
Wicked as it was – I would not have turned savage, or  
Have killed my husband. But he must bring home with him 20  
The mad prophetess; foist on me a second wife,  
A fellow-lodger – two kept women in one house.

Well, women are frail, I grant you. But when, knowing this,  
A husband looks elsewhere, and slights his lawful wife,  
She'll copy him, and find herself another friend. 25  
And then the glare of public censure lights on *us*;  
The husbands are to blame – but they're not criticized.  
Suppose Menelaus had been abducted secretly,  
Would I have had to kill Orestes, to get back  
My sister's husband Menelaus? Would your father 30

**Have stood for that? No: he'd have killed me if I'd touched  
His son; he killed my daughter – why should he not die?  
I killed him. I took the only way open to me –  
Turned for help to his enemies. Well, what could I do?  
None of your father's friends would have helped me murder 35  
him.**

**So, if you're anxious to refute me, do it now;  
Speak freely; prove your father's death not justified.**

**Euripides, 'Electra' 1013–1049**

- (a) Briefly describe the events in the play between the entry  
on stage of the Messenger and the start of this passage. [10]**
- (b) In this passage, what reasons does Clytemnestra give for  
killing Agamemnon? How justified do you think she is? [20]**
- (c) How is Clytemnestra portrayed in this passage? How  
consistent is this portrayal with Electra's opinion of  
Clytemnestra in the play? [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 ‘The real tragic hero in Sophocles’ ‘Antigone’ is Creon, not Antigone herself.’ How far do you agree with this statement?**

**In your answer, you should:**

**consider the words and actions of Creon and Antigone in Sophocles’ ‘Antigone’**

**include an analysis of the reasons for their suffering**

**use evidence from Sophocles’ ‘Antigone’. [45]**

**4 ‘Jason has no redeeming features and fully deserves everything that happens to him.’ How far do you agree with this statement?**

**In your answer, you should:**

**consider the character and behaviour of Jason**

**include an analysis of the reasons for what he does and what happens to him**

**use evidence from Euripides’ ‘Medea’. [45]**

**5 'In Greek Tragedy, characters always allow their emotions to control their actions.' How far do you agree with this statement?**

**consider the actions of the characters in the plays**

**include an analysis of why the characters behave as they do**

**use evidence from AT LEAST TWO of the plays you have studied. [45]**

**[SECTION B TOTAL: 45]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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