

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
A2 GCE
F390/01
CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION
Virgil and the world of the hero

TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2015: Afternoon
DURATION: 2 hours
plus your additional time allowance

MODIFIED ENLARGED

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 for the quality of written communication in your answer.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

When he [Anchises] saw Aeneas coming towards him over the grass, he stretched out both hands in eager welcome, with the tears streaming down his cheeks, and these were the words that broke from his mouth: 'You have come at last,' he cried. 'I knew your devotion would prevail over all the rigour of the journey and bring you to your father. Am I to be allowed to look upon your face, my son, to hear the voice I know so well and answer it with my own? I never doubted it. I counted the hours, knowing you would come, and my love has not deceived me. I understand how many lands you have travelled and how many seas you have sailed to come to me here. I know the dangers that have beset you. I so feared the kingdom of Libya would do you harm.' 'It was my vision of you,' replied Aeneas, 'always before my eyes and always stricken with sorrow, that drove me to the threshold of this place. The fleet is moored in the Tyrrhenian sea on the shores of Italy. Give me your right hand, father. Give it me. Do not avoid my embrace.' As he spoke these words his cheeks were washed with tears and three times he tried to put his arms around his father's neck. Three times the phantom melted in his hands, as weightless as the wind, as light as the flight of sleep. 5

And now Aeneas saw in a side valley a secluded grove with copses of rustling trees where the river Lethe glided along past peaceful dwelling houses. Around it fluttered numberless races and tribes of men, like bees in a meadow on a clear summer day, settling on all the many-coloured flowers and crowding round the gleaming white lilies while the whole plain is loud with their buzzing. Not understanding what he saw, Aeneas shuddered at the sudden sight of them and asked why this was, what was that river in the distance and who were all those companies of men crowding its banks. 'These are the souls to whom Fate owes a second body,' replied Anchises. 'They come to the waves of the river Lethe and drink the waters of serenity and draughts of long oblivion. I have long been eager to tell you who they are, to show them to you face to face and count the generations of my people to you so that you could rejoice the more with me at the finding of Italy.' 10 15 20 25 30 35

Virgil, 'Aeneid' Book 6 684–719

- (a) Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how far the importance of family is emphasised in the first half of the 'Aeneid' (Books 1–6). [25]
- (b) 'Book 6 contains everything that makes the 'Aeneid' a success.' How far do you agree? [25]

Do NOT answer this question if you have 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

Then Thetis answered him with her tears falling: ‘Hephaistos, is there any one of all the goddesses on Olympos who has endured such misery in her heart as all the sorrows that Zeus, son of Kronos, has given me beyond all others? Out of all the sea-goddesses he made me subject to a man, Peleus son of Aiakos, and I had to serve a mortal’s bed, though much against my will. Now he lies in his house broken by painful old age, but there is more misery for me now. He gave me a son to bear and raise, to be the greatest of heroes, and he shot up like a young sapling. I tended him like a plant in the crown of a garden, and sent him out with the beaked ships, to fight the Trojans. But now I shall never welcome him back to Peleus’ house – there will be no homecoming. And yet all the time I have him alive and looking on the light of the sun, he is suffering, and I can give him no help when I go to him. The girl that the sons of the Achaians chose out as his prize lord Agamemnon took back out of his hands. So he let his heart waste away in grief for her. And meanwhile the Trojans penned the Achaians back by the sterns of their ships, and would not let them break out. The elders of the Argives came and pleaded with Achilles, and named all the glorious gifts they would give him. Then he refused to go out himself to beat disaster from them, but he dressed Patroklos in his own armour and sent him out to war, and a large force to go with him. All day long they fought around the Skaian gates, and they would have sacked the city on that very day, if Apollo had not killed the brave son of Menoitios in the front ranks after he had done much damage, and he gave the glory to Hektor. So that is why I have come to beg at your knees, hoping that you will give my doomed son a shield and a fine pair of greaves fitted with ankle-pieces, and a corselet. The armour he had was lost with his trusted friend when he fell to the Trojans: and now my son is lying on the ground in agony of heart.’

Homer, ‘Iliad’ Book 18 429–462

PASSAGE 2

But his mother Venus was terrified, and with good reason, by the threats of the Laurentines and the savagery of the fighting, so she spoke to her husband Vulcan. Coming to him in his golden bedroom and breathing divine love into her voice, she said: 'When the citadel of Troy was being ravaged in war by the kings of Greece, it was owed to Fate and was doomed to fall in the fires lit by its enemies, but I asked for nothing for those who suffered. I did not call upon the help of your art to make arms for them. Although I owed much to the sons of Priam and had often wept at the sufferings endured by Aeneas, I did not wish, O my dearest husband, that you should exert yourself to no purpose. But now, in obedience to the commands of Jupiter, Aeneas is standing on Rutulian soil and so now I come to you as a suppliant. I approach that godhead which I so revere, and as a mother, I ask you to make arms for my son. You yielded to Thetis, the daughter of Nereus, you yielded to the wife of Tithonus when they came and wept to you. Look at all the nations gathering. Look at the walled cities that have closed their gates and are sharpening their swords against me to destroy those I love.' She had finished speaking and he was hesitating. The goddess took him gently in her white arms and caressed him, and caressed him again. Suddenly he caught fire as he always did. The old heat he knew so well pierced to the marrow of his bones and coursed through them till they melted, as in a thunderstorm when a fiery-flashing rift bursts the clouds and runs through them in dazzling brightness. His wife knew and was pleased. She was well aware of her beauty and she knew how to use it.

Virgil, 'Aeneid' Book 8 370–395

- (a) How successfully are Venus' powers of persuasion portrayed in Passage 2? [25]
- (b) 'Virgil's characterisation of Venus is more effective than Homer's characterisation of Thetis.' How far do you agree? In your answer, you should use these passages and the books of the 'Aeneid' and the 'Iliad' you have studied. [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 Whom do you consider to be the more inspiring and admirable hero, Aeneas or Hektor? You must make reference to BOTH the ‘Aeneid’ AND the ‘Iliad’. [50]

- 4 ‘The ‘Aeneid’ celebrates the tragedy of human suffering more than the triumph of Rome’s imperial destiny.’ How far do you agree with this statement? [50]

[Section B Total: 50]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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