

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
AS GCE
F382/01
CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION
Homer's 'Odyssey' and Society

TUESDAY 19 MAY 2015: 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 (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 quality of written communication in your answer.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

‘I fear the goddess prophesied all too well when she told me I should have my full measure of misery on the sea before I reached my native land. Every word she said is coming true. At Zeus’ command the whole sky is heavy with clouds, the sea is seething, squalls from every quarter hurtle together. There is nothing for me now but sudden death. Three and four times blessed are those countrymen of mine who fell long ago on the broad plains of Troy in loyal service to the sons of Atreus. If only I too could have met my fate and died the day the Trojan hordes let fly at me with their bronze spears over Achilles’ corpse! I should at least have had my burial rites and the Achaeans would have spread my fame abroad. But now it seems I was predestined to die an ignoble death.’

5

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As he spoke, a mountainous wave, advancing with awesome speed, crashed down upon him from above and whirled his raft around. The rudder was torn from his hands, and he himself was tossed off the raft; at the same moment the warring winds joined forces in one tremendous gust, which snapped the mast

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in two and flung the sail and half-deck far out	25
into the sea. For a long time the water kept him	
under. Weighed down by the clothes which the	
goddess Calypso had given him, he could not	
quickly fight his way up against the downrush of	
that mighty wave. But at last he reached the air	30
and spat out the bitter brine that poured down	
his face. Exhausted though he was, he did not	
forget his raft, but struck out after it through the	
surf, scrambled up, and sitting in the middle of	
it avoided the finality of death. The heavy seas	35
thrust him with the current this way and that.	
Like the North Wind at harvest-time tossing	
about the fields a ball of thistles that have stuck	
together, the gusts drove his craft hither and	
thither over the sea. Now the South Wind would	40
toss it to the North to play with, and now the	
East would leave it for the West to chase.	

Homer, 'Odyssey' Book 5 lines 299–333

- (a) What happens to Odysseus in Book 5 of the 'Odyssey' before AND after this passage? [10]**
- (b) How is the power of the storm conveyed in this passage? In your answer you should discuss what Odysseus says, what happens and the way it is written. [20]**
- (c) How does Homer use fate in the 'Odyssey'? In your answer, you should include a range of events which have been predicted to take place and consider what they contribute to the poem. [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.

Wailing bitterly, with the tears streaming down their cheeks, the women all came in together. First they removed the bodies of the dead, which they laid under the portico of the walled courtyard, propping them one against the other. Odysseus himself took charge and urged them on: unwillingly they carried the bodies out. 5

Next they washed down the tables and the beautiful chairs with sponges and water, after which Telemachus and the two herdsmen scraped the floor of the great hall with spades, while the maids removed the scrapings and got rid of them outside. Finally, when the whole hall had been set in order, they took the women out of the building, and herded them between the round-house and the great courtyard wall in a narrow space from which there was no escape. Then the thoughtful Telemachus spoke. 10 15

‘I swear I will not give a decent death to women who have heaped insults on my head and on my mother’s, and slept with the Suitors.’ 20

With that he took a cable which had seen service on a blue-bowed ship, made one end fast to a high column in the portico, and threw the other over the round-house, high up, so that their feet would not touch the ground. As when long-winged thrushes or doves get entangled in a snare, which has been set in a thicket – 25

they are on their way to roost, but find a grim reception – so the women’s heads were held fast in a row, with nooses round their necks, to bring them to the most pitiable end. For a little while their feet twitched but not for very long. 30

Homer, ‘Odyssey’ Book 22 447–473

- (a) What have the servant women already said and done in Odysseus’ palace before this passage? [10]**
- (b) How does Homer make this passage an effective piece of story-telling? In your answer, you should discuss what happens and the way these events are narrated. [20]**
- (c) ‘Revenge is always taken too far in the ‘Odyssey’.’ How far do you agree? In your answer, you should include examples of revenge taking place and the extent to which they were justified. [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 To what extent do you think that Odysseus is concerned only about himself?**

In your answer you should:

consider what Odysseus says and does

discuss whether he is more interested in himself than in other people

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

- 4 ‘Perfect Penelope.’ How far does Penelope deserve this description?**

In your answer you should:

consider what Penelope says and does and what people say about her

discuss whether she behaves in a faultless way or not

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

- 5 'Vividly realistic.' How far do you agree with this description of the life and society portrayed in the 'Odyssey'?**

In your answer you should:

consider what you have learnt about Homeric life and society from the 'Odyssey'

discuss how far Homer has brought the society to life in a vivid and realistic manner

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

[SECTION B TOTAL: 45]

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