

# OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

## Monday 22 May 2017 – Morning

### AS GCE CLASSICS: CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

#### F382/01 Homer's *Odyssey* and Society

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

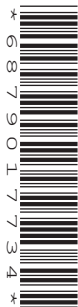
**OCR supplied materials:**

- 12-page Answer Booklet (OCR12)  
(sent with general stationery)

**Other materials required:**

None

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes



#### 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.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

#### 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**.
- This document consists of **4** pages. 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.

“Yet the most pitiable thing of all was the cry I heard from Cassandra, daughter of Priam, whom that treacherous schemer Clytaemnestra murdered at my side. I raised my hands, but then beat them on the ground, dying, thrust through by a sword. The bitch turned her face aside, and could not even bring herself, though I was on my way to Hades, to shut my eyes with her hands or to close my mouth. There is nothing more degraded or shameful than a woman who can contemplate and carry out deeds like the hideous crime of murdering the husband of her youth. I had certainly expected a joyful welcome from my children and my servants when I reached my home. But now, in the depth of her villainy, she has branded with infamy not herself alone but the whole of her sex, even the virtuous ones, for all time to come.” 5

“Alas!” I exclaimed. “All-seeing Zeus has indeed proved himself a relentless foe to the House of Atreus from the beginning, working his will through women’s crooked ways. It was for Helen’s sake that so many of us met our deaths, and it was Clytaemnestra who hatched the plot against her absent lord.” 10

“Yes,” replied Agamemnon. “Never be too trustful even of your wife, nor show her all that is in your mind. Reveal a little of your plans to her, but keep the rest to yourself. Not that *your* wife, Odysseus, will ever murder you. Icarus’ daughter is far too loyal in her thoughts and feelings. The wise Penelope! She was a young woman when we said goodbye to her on our way to the war. She had a baby son at her breast.” 15

20

25

Homer, *Odyssey* Book 11 422–448

- (a) What did Circe tell Odysseus to do to allow him to speak to the dead? What have the dead told him before the start of this passage? [10]
- (b) To what extent are women presented negatively in this passage? In your answer, you should discuss what is said about them **and** the language used. [20]
- (c) What do the stories about the actions of the Greek heroes who fought at Troy contribute to the *Odyssey*? In your answer, you should include a range of Greek heroes mentioned in the *Odyssey*. You should **not** discuss Odysseus. [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 looked round his house to see whether any survivors were hiding to escape black Death. But he found the whole company lying in heaps in the blood and dust, like fish that the fishermen have dragged out of the grey surf in the meshes of their net on to a curving beach, to lie in masses on the sand longing for the salt water, till the bright sun ends their lives. So there the Suitors lay in heaps, one upon another. 5

‘Telemachus,’ said the shrewd Odysseus to his son, ‘call the nurse Eurycleia here, so that I can tell her what I want.’ 10

Telemachus obediently went off, rattled the door of the women’s quarters and called out to Eurycleia. ‘Get up, old woman, and come here. You’re in charge of the serving-women of the household. My father is calling for you. He has something to say.’ Eurycleia made no reply, but immediately opened the door of the apartments, came out and hurried along behind 15

Telemachus. She found Odysseus among the corpses of the dead, spattered with blood and gore, like a lion when he comes from feeding on some farmer’s bullock, with the blood dripping from his breast and jaws on either side, a fearsome spectacle. 20

That was how Odysseus looked, with the gore spattered on his legs and arms. But when Eurycleia saw the dead men and the sea of blood she felt like crying out in triumph at the mighty achievement that confronted her. Odysseus, however, checked her exuberance with a sharp rebuke. 25

‘Restrain yourself old woman, and gloat in silence. I’ll have no cries of triumph here. It is an impious thing to exult over the slain. These men fell victims to the will of the gods and their own infamy.’

Homer, *Odyssey* Book 22 380–414

- (a) Briefly outline what has happened from the point Odysseus strung the bow to the start of this passage. [10]
- (b) How has Homer made this passage a vivid piece of story-telling? In your answer, you should discuss what happens **and** the way these events are narrated. [20]
- (c) ‘These men fell victims to the will of the gods and their own infamy’ (lines 28–29). How were the Suitors behaving badly? How far were the gods responsible for bringing about their punishment? [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 that Odysseus was irresponsible?

In your answer, you should:

- consider what Odysseus says and does on a number of occasions
- discuss whether these examples show Odysseus to behave responsibly and sensibly or not
- support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. **[45]**

**4** ‘Family is of little importance in the *Odyssey* and the society it depicts.’  
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your answer, you should:

- consider the portrayal of different families in the epic
- discuss how they are shown and how far they are valued
- support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. **[45]**

**5** Do you think that the *Odyssey* would make a good film?

In your answer, you should:

- make detailed reference to the characters, plot, locations and structure of the epic
- discuss how effectively these aspects of the epic could be made into a film
- support your answer with evidence from the *Odyssey*. **[45]**

**[Section B Total: 45]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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