

GCSE (9–1)

Candidate style answers

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

J199

For first teaching in 2017

J199/21 The Homeric World

Version 1

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Introduction

OCR has produced this resource to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE (9–1) Classical Civilisation specification and to bridge the gap between new specification’s release for first teaching in September 2017 and availability of exemplar candidate work following first examination in summer 2019.

The questions in this resource have been taken from the J199/21 The Homeric World specimen question paper, which is available on the OCR website. A couple of the images in this resource differ slightly from the specimen paper due to copyright restrictions. The answers and examiner commentary in this resource have been written by a senior examiner.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers. Whilst a senior examiner has provided a possible level for each response, when marking these answers in a live series the mark a response would get depends on the whole process of standardisation, which considers the big picture of the year’s scripts. Therefore the levels awarded here should be considered to be only an estimation of what would be awarded. How levels and marks correspond to grade boundaries depends on the Awarding process that happens after all/most of the scripts are marked and depends on a number of factors, including candidate performance across the board. Details of this process can be found here: <http://ocr.org.uk/Images/142042-marking-and-grading-assuring-ocr-s-accuracy.pdf>

SECTION A: CULTURE

Question 6

Source C: *Rhyton*



Select **two** features of the design of this vessel, and suggest what each tells us about the Mycenaeans. [4]

Example 1

This object shows the inlay technique of the Mycenaeans with gold on silver. This shows that they were very skilled to be able to do this. It is in the shape of a bull which must have been an important animal and shows a possible connection with Crete.

Examiner Commentary

2 + 2 – 2 clear points with good analysis. There is an added point with Crete, which would also be credited if necessary.

Example 2

This object shows a lot of skill to make it. It shows really good metalworking skills to make the rosette on it which is very intricate. This is an item known as a rhyton.

Examiner Commentary

1 + 1 – First sentence elaborated on in the second with a decent analysis. The fact that it is a rhyton (ignore spelling) is not a feature of design or analysis.

Example 3

This object is very decorated. It is made of bronze and gold. It would have hung on the walls of a palace for visitors to admire. The horns, nose and rosette are all gold. This shows that the Mycenaeans used gold a lot on items to look impressive.

Examiner Commentary

1 + 0 – A mark is awarded for recognising it has gold, but the analysis at the end is too generic. No real evidence it was hung up, and it isn't discussing a feature of it.

Question 7

Source D: Mycenaean full-body armour



Select **three** features of this armour, and describe how each is different from other examples of Mycenaean armour. [6]

Example 1

This helmet is made from boars' tusks. Other helmets were often made of bronze. It is fairly plain but others would have feathers and crests on the top. The armour is made from pieces of metal, but usually warriors just had leather protection on their chest.

Examiner Commentary

3 + 3 – three points + comparisons.

Example 2

This is an ivory tusk helmet. Animals would have their horns cut off and the horns placed on a lining. These were extremely tough and gave good protection. However most other helmets later were made of metal. The body armour is made from plates of metal. These were very strong and were quite flexible. However the soldiers on the Warrior Vase do not wear this kind of armour. There is good protection for the neck, but again, the Warrior Vase does not have this.

Examiner Commentary

3 + 1 – Answer tends to give more detail than necessary. The first comparison is too vague ("metal") to be worthy of credit. Body armour given a mark, and the mention of the Warrior Vase being different is just about ok, but better to say what they did have. Neck protection good, but same evaluation not worth an extra mark.

Example 3

This warrior has a tusk helmet. Most other soldiers wore different helmets. Some were made of metal. This warrior has strips of bronze for protection, but others often had shields. Some would have had protection on their legs too. This helmet has bits coming down the side of the face for protection.

Examiner Commentary

3 + 0 – There are 3 points here, if basically expressed. Nothing given for mention of shields and leg protection as this is not felt to be particularly pertinent.

Question 8

Source E



What do you think is most impressive about Mycenaean frescoes? Use the source as a starting point and your own knowledge in your answer. [8]

Example 1

Mycenaean frescoes were very impressive. They were made by putting wet plaster on a wall, which would have been covered with a thick backing. The colours were painted on when wet, and they had an impressive range of colours. This allowed the paint to soak through the plaster. The colours were obtained from natural products. For example yellow was obtained from ochre. Just getting hold of the colours would be difficult. These colours were very bright and often contrasted with each other.

This fresco shows a woman in very fancy clothing holding a box, possibly a pyxis. The detail on the skirt is amazing, and she has typical Mycenaean hair. Like most frescoes she is shown side on.

The subject matter of frescos was also impressive, covering a wide range of animals, people and objects. A particularly good example is the Mycenaean Lady which shows a woman in fancy clothing and jewellery. Small items like the jewellery are done in tiny detail. This fresco has a lot of blue in it which was hard to obtain. Another good example is one of two boxers from Mycenae. They have very detailed hairstyles, like the Mycenaean lady. The best fresco I have seen was a ship fresco, although some think it might not be Mycenaean. It shows a very detailed coastal scene, including ships, buildings and even some warriors, and is full of different colours. I think the use of different colours on this is what is most impressive.

Examiner Commentary

Level 4

The answer shows detailed knowledge of the manufacture of, and design on frescoes. It has a personal response, showing good critical analysis and evaluation. It clearly answers the question throughout.

Example 2

This example shows a Mycenaean woman in typical costume. It uses colour really well and the skirt has two symmetrical halves, showing real precision. The hair is very detailed too. This example has survived incredibly well. The skirt also has lots of detail with tiny blocks in the patterns that must have taken a lot of care.

Frescoes were painted on plaster and the colours soaked into the plaster. These were minerals which would have been mixed with water and painted on. To make the colours was difficult and therefore impressive.

I particularly like the colours on the frescoes. They were often bright and had a full range of colours. There is one of some women picking flowers that shows a rural scene and another of two young boys boxing.

However the figures are not very realistic. The woman in the picture has a tiny waist and a breast that seems to be very big. Also her hands don't look right either.

Examiner Commentary

Level 3

This uses the source on the question paper very well and has a decent knowledge of other sources, though it really only names these without discussion. There is quite good knowledge of how frescoes were made and how colours were obtained, but it lacks detail in places. The discussion of the limitations is not relevant.

Example 3

This fresco shows a woman from Mycenae. It has lots of different colours and lots of detail. This would have been made by painting directly on to the wall. The colours would have been got from different minerals and natural items. Greens would have come from plants and leaves and red from blood. The fact that they could get these colours that would last for thousands of years impressed me most.

Other frescoes shows different people and scenes from Mycenae. There is another one of a woman in her clothing and another from Troy shows boxers. The range of subjects that could be seen in also impressive.

Examiner Commentary

Level 2

There is a lot missing from this, and several factual errors. It knows a few detail, but has a limited understanding of how a fresco was produced, and a rather hazy description of a couple of frescoes. There is some evaluation with references to colour, detail and subject range, though it has a limited range of evidence.

Culture essay questions

9. 'The skill it took to build Mycenaean tombs should be admired more than the contents inside.'
How far do you agree with this statement? [15]

OR

10. How safe do you think it would have been to have lived in Mycenae? Justify your response. [15]

Example 1

Mycenae would have been safe to some extent. It was a very rich city and had many treasures. This would have made it a target for attackers to come in and steal items. The city had soldiers who were well trained to stop such attacks.

The city was very hard to approach and once at the city, it was very hard to get into. It had huge walls called Cyclopean Walls. The Greeks believed these were made by mythical one giants as they were so big. We do not know how they managed to build them as some of the blocks weighed many tonnes. There were also ditches around the walls to stop attackers from getting in.

Most attackers would have come in through the Lion Gate. This would have been heavily protected by soldiers, which would have made the city safer. The gate was several meters high and would have been closed by a bar.

The final thing that made it safer was the sally port. This was a secret tunnel through the wall through which attacks could surprise the enemy as the attackers could not be seen. This would be very effective at making the city safe.

Examiner Commentary

Banded at bottom of Level 3

There is some decent factual knowledge, but the facts are not expanded on (e.g. no mention of size of walls, what the treasures were, size of Lion Gate). Quite a good range however. Some unsupported statements (e.g. soldiers trained) and some ideas not relevant (how walls were built). Not much detail about how Lion Gate was defended (i.e. not much context).

The analysis is fairly shallow. The opening point is logical, if underdeveloped. The approach to the city needs more detail. The final paragraph is quite good, but oversimplifies in stating the sally port made the city safe.

Example 2

Mycenae was a really safe place as it was on the top of a hill. This meant that attackers would get tired approaching the city. The first thing attackers would face was the huge Lion Gate. Enemies could hurl down items on them to stop them breaking through. The only other way in was the northern gate, also known as the Postern Gate.

The Sally port was another important defensive structure. These could have been secret passages to rush out and attack unsuspecting enemies.

The walls around the city were huge. They are known as the Cyclopean Walls as the people of the time thought that only giants could have built them.

The Mycenaean were able to get fresh water from an underground cistern – a tank used to store water. The cistern is below ground level and it collected water through a series of clay pipes on the roof. The water came from a natural spring that lay close to the city. This could prove very useful if the city was under attack.

There was a huge central area in the city called the megaron. This is where the king had his palace, and it had courtyards, a throne room and store-rooms. As it was high up, it made it safer from attack.

Mycenae was safe as it did not have many enemies. Tiryns was 10 miles away, but we do not know if they got along or not.

Overall I think Mycenae would be quite safe from attack for the reasons I have mentioned. However it was a rich city and so enemies would think it worthwhile attacking it.

Examiner Commentary

Bottom of Level 4

This considers a very good range of areas, covering most of the site of Mycenae. It certainly discusses more individual areas than the previous essay, but it does not go into any relevant depth (e.g. size of walls). Some details are not that relevant (e.g. what went on in the megaron, how water was collected, naming of the walls). Overall though it just has enough of a range to meet the Level 4 AO1 descriptor.

The evaluation is fair, but a bit thin. It is often a mere sentence and not elaborated (e.g. why was the cistern useful if under attack). It generally shows a good understanding however, but needs more analysis and discussion of sources for more marks.

Example 3

In my opinion, the city of Mycenae was a very safe and protected place to live.

Firstly, the huge Cyclopean walls make it almost impossible to get through with the help of machines (which they didn't have). The walls reached 12m high and in some places 7m thick. These huge walls surrounded all of the city (bar Grave Circle B). Three of the sides of Mycenae only have the walls, however one side has a steep gorge dropping extremely hard and dangerous to cross to reach the city. This is an advantage in itself.

Also, the iconic lion gate was the only entrance to the city (apart from the sally ports). If the enemy were to try to access through here, soldiers were there ready and loaded with weapons and other things to throw off the bastion on which they were standing. If the soldiers haven't managed to put them off the statue of the lions might. These huge sculptors send a warning to others above how powerful and strong the city is. The lions represent power and strength.

Another feature is the height advantage. The city of Mycenae is positioned on a hill overlooking the rest of Greece. This means that if enemy attackers tried to attack then the hill itself would be a killer to get up especially in full armour, carrying weapons. This would also help for defensive purposes as when enemy soldiers are below trying to hack their way in, the defenders can just drop or fire things down. Due to gravity, this would do more damage.

Not forgetting the upside of having a full cistern of water hidden underground away from sabotage. In the event of enemies not going straight in for city but flushing the citizens out by cutting their water supply, they will always have the cistern in the underground room full of fresh water.

Overall I think that they city of Mycenae is a safe place to live in.

Examiner Commentary

Bottom of Level 5

Shows a very good knowledge of the structure of the city. Very good info on the walls, with impressive detail on the dimensions. Knows the topography well too. Knows not only how the structures, but also how soldiers would defend them. The odd error (e.g. only one error), and omission (possibly should mention the riches of the city, discussion of sally ports) mean not full marks. It also has some very good analysis of fighting techniques and a range of evidence. Coherent arguments with sources with evaluated. However no attempt at balance in suggesting why it might be prone to attack. It just gets in to the top band. There is plenty more to say, but in about 15–20 minutes, it is fairly comprehensive.

SECTION B: LITERATURE

Question 15

Source G

‘The wind carried me from Ilium to Ismarus, city of the Cicones. I sacked the city and slew the men, and the women and riches we split between us, so that as far as I could determine no man lacked an equal share. Then as you might imagine I ordered us to slip away quickly, but my foolish followers wouldn’t listen.’

Odyssey 9.39–44 (trans. A. S. Kline)

‘The same wind that wafted me from Ilium brought me to Ismarus, the city of the Cicones. I sacked this place and destroyed its menfolk. The women and the vast plunder we took from the town we divided so that no one, as far as I could help it, should go short of his proper share. And then I said we must escape with all possible speed. But my fools of men refused.’

Odyssey 9.39–44 (trans. Rieu)

What does this passage tell us about Odysseus’ leadership? Make **two** points, supported by evidence from the passage. [4]

Example 1

Odysseus is a brutal leader as it says “I slew all the men”, but he is also fair as it says “the women and riches we split between us”.

Examiner Commentary

2 + 2 – Two clear references with an opinion on each.

Example 2

Odysseus is a skilled leader as he used the wind to take him from Ilium to Ismarus. He is very fair in distributing the treasure evenly, but his men refuse to leave when told, showing that he is a poor leader.

Examiner Commentary

2 + 1 – The first sentence is not seen as valid as it assumes he was deliberately seeking this land, but the sharing of treasure is good. The AO2 is the word “fair” and the AO1 is the distribution. The other mark is for noting his men don’t listen, but there is no real analysis, with the statement of “poor leader” being too general.

Example 3

Odysseus acts very heroically in this passage in how he deals with the Cicones. He is a strong warrior. He tells his men what to do, and giving instructions is what a leader should do.

Examiner Commentary

0 + 1 – The references are too vague to be worthy of credit. The examiner has to assume the candidate is referring to Odysseus’ decision to leave, but this is far from certain. The fact he acts as a hero is not really relevant (if it had been that he as leader provided an example for his men, then this would perhaps be ok). The final statement about a leader giving instructions shows some understanding of what leadership is shown.

Question 16

Source H:

Resourceful Odysseus replied: 'Honoured wife of Odysseus, Laertes' son, must you ask me of my lineage? Very well, I will tell you, though you only add more pain to that I already suffer, as is ever the case when a man has been as long away from home as I have, roaming sadly from city to city. Nevertheless I will answer your questions.

Out in the wine-dark sea lies a land called Crete, a rich and lovely island. It is filled with countless people, in ninety cities. They are not of one language, but speak several tongues. There are Achaeans there, and brave native Cretans, Cydonians, three races of Dorians, and noble Pelasgians too. One of the ninety cities is mighty Cnossus, where Minos ruled, and every nine years spoke with mighty Zeus. He was brave Deucalion's father, and so my grandfather. Deucalion had two sons, Lord Idomeneus and me. Idomeneus, my older brother, and a better man than I, sailed with the sons of Atreus in the curved ships to Ilium, so I the younger, Aethon is my name, was left behind, there to meet and entertain Odysseus. The wind had driven him to Crete as he headed for Troy, and blew him off course by Cape Malea. He anchored at Amnisus, a tricky harbour, near the cave of Eileithyia, and barely escaped shipwreck.

Odyssey 19.164–189 (trans. A. S. Kline)

**Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.
The passage can be found in the J199/21 specimen paper.**

Odyssey 19.164–189 (trans. Rieu)

How does Homer make this passage interesting? Make **three** points, supported by evidence from the passage. [6]

Example 1

There is typical detail in the passage of Crete, it's people and his own family. This shows him to be a very clever speaker to make up these details on the spot so that Penelope will believe him.

Odysseus also makes Penelope feel pity for him by saying that he has been away for so long roaming from city to city. This is also clever as it accurately describes what he has been doing.

Odysseus is very polite in his address to Penelope at the start. This shows him to be very clever as he is more likely to gain *xenia* from her.

Examiner Commentary

3 + 3 – Three good points, well backed up with references. The third idea is similar to the first, but the extra detail of *xenia* gains the mark.

Example 2

At the start there is an epithet where Odysseus is called resourceful. This shows Odysseus' character to be clever.

Odysseus lies very well in this passage, which is typical of him. He says he is from Crete so that Penelope does not suspect who he is.

It is interesting where we find out that Minos spoke with Zeus. You don't normally get to speak with a god so this shows how important he is. However there is a list of the people who live in Crete that isn't very interesting.

Examiner Commentary

3 + 1 – Good reference to the epithet, but this is followed by a simple generic statement. The candidate needs to say how he is being resourceful at this point. There is a good reference to the tale that he tells them, but it doesn't really say why it is interesting in enough detail to merit the mark. The third part is good, and whilst not on the mark scheme, would seem to deserve 2 marks for an interesting and well-referenced idea. The final point is not relevant.

Example 3

Odysseus is given the epithet “resourceful” at the start. This is interesting as it fits his character here as he is making up a story on the spot to convince Penelope of who he is. He also gives some details of his story that actually happened, which make it more believable. Odysseus is very polite to Penelope at the start so that she might be hospitable to him and listen to his story.

Examiner Commentary

2 + 1 – The first point is well developed and clearly referenced. However whilst the second point is good, the analysis is really the same as the first point (same idea not credited twice), and the reference is too vague – which parts of his tale are true. The final reference is just about good enough for a mark as “at the start” and “polite” makes it clear enough (just, though quotation would be much better), but there isn’t really any analysis of why this is interesting, just a reason why he does it.

Question 18

Source I

Round it wolves and mountain lions prowled, bewitched by Circe with her magic drugs. Instead of rushing to attack my men, they rose on their hind legs and wagged their tails. Like dogs fawning round their master, back from a feast, bringing them the titbits they enjoy, the wolves and sharp-clawed lions fawned round my men, while they seeing these dread creatures were gripped by fear. They stood there at the gate of the goddess with lovely tresses, and they could hear Circe's sweet voice singing inside, as she went to and fro in front of a vast divine tapestry, weaving the finely-made, lovely, shining work of the goddesses.

Then Polites, the dearest and most trusted of my friends, a man of initiative, spoke: "Friends, a woman, a goddess perhaps, is singing sweetly within, walking to and fro in front of a great tapestry, and the whole place echoes. Let's call out to her, now."

At that, they shouted, and called to her, and Circe came to open the shining doors, and invite them to enter: and so they innocently followed her inside. Eurylochus alone, suspecting it was a trap, stayed behind. She ushered the rest in, and seated them on stools and chairs, and mixed them a brew of yellow honey and Pramnian wine, with cheese and barley meal. But she mixed in wicked drugs, as well, so they might wholly forget their native land.

Odyssey 10.212–236 (trans. A. S. Kline)

**Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.
The passage can be found in the J199/21 specimen paper.**

Odyssey 10.212–236 (trans. Rieu)

"The story of Circe has everything needed to entertain the reader." To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use the source as a starting point and your own knowledge in your answer. [8]

Example 1

The story of Circe has lots of elements that interest the reader. In the passage there is magic involved as there are dangerous animals that Circe has previously drugged behaving oddly as they are fawning on the men. Her magical powers are also shown at the end when she prepares a potion and puts it into their food. However the passage also shows another side of Circe as she does the typical female task of weaving. This is despite her being a goddess. After this passage she turns the men.

The story is also interesting as we see Circe change in character. She becomes much more hospitable, feeding Odysseus and his men and looking after them for year, before giving them advice about what to do in the underworld. Her behaviour helps us to understand what xenia is.

The story also introduces the idea of sex as Odysseus sleeps with Circe. In doing so, it shows him to be a true hero as goddesses do not sleep with ordinary mortals. It also allows us to see Odysseus' character as Odysseus sets off bravely to rescue his plan. However, he only survives because of Hermes' help and we know in advance what will happen which removes some of the tension.

Examiner Commentary

Level 4

There is good, detailed coverage of the story and the answer is well argued. There is a good attempt at balance.

Example 2

This passage is very tense. We do not know why the animals are acting so strangely and this is intriguing. It is also tense when Circe puts the drug into the food as we do not know what will happen. The men are very gullible to simply follow her in, although Euylochus does not do so. It is interesting to see that the leader is the only one not to go in.

The rest of the story is very interesting. Circe has magical powers and turns the men into pigs. Odysseus comes along and is immune to her magic, thanks to a drug that Hermes gave him. She then makes Odysseus sleep with her, before turning his men back to humans. She then gives them hospitality before helping them to go. Time behaves strangely as they think they have only stayed a few days, but have actually been there for much longer.

The story is very interesting as Odysseus is not faithful to his wife and sleeps with Circe. His actions are very different to his wife's. It is also very interesting to see the gods help Odysseus as Hermes give Odysseus a herb to eat to prevent the magic working.

Examiner Commentary

Level 3

There is some good knowledge of the story here, especially in the second paragraph, although there is an error due to the film of the Odyssey. There could be a bit more correct detail too in Hermes drug or the hospitality given. There are some good evaluative points over tension and discussion of Odysseus and Penelope, but the point about Eurylochus is not really developed. The second paragraph needs a bit of analysis as it is largely narration.

Example 3

The story of Circe is very interesting. Circe has strange animals like lions and wolves that prowl around her house. This alarms Odysseus' men. Circe is also interesting as she sings and weaves a delicate fabric. She then creates a meal for the men, but she slips a poisonous drug into this that makes the men forget about their homeland and only one of the men does not take the drug.

After this passage Odysseus goes to rescue the men. He ends up sleeping with Circe so that the men get changed back, and then they all stay and relax with Circe. At the end of the section Circe gives them some advice about where to go next if they wish to get back home.

The story is interesting as we see the power of Circe who can turn men into animals. We also see that she has two sides to her nature as she ends up helping Odysseus.

Examiner Commentary

Level 2

Most of the first paragraph is just a rehash of the passage. There is no attempt to discuss why it is interesting. The second paragraph gives a brief overview of the story, but again lacks analysis and could be more detailed. At the end we get a couple of evaluative points, but they are quite basic and show a limited appreciation of the story.

Literature essay questions

19. How similar are the characters of Telemachus and Odysseus in the *Odyssey*? [15]

OR

20. How important is the theme of justice in the books of the *Odyssey* you have read? [15]

Example 1

Telemachus is very like his father. Both of them plot together to destroy the suitors, and both of them are very cunning in the plans that they make.

Telemachus is a young man at the time his father arrives home. He is struggling to control the rowdy suitors that are seeking to marry his mother, Penelope and tries to exert his authority over them. As soon as he finds out that the beggar is really Odysseus, he plots together with him. He organises the contest of the bow, setting up the axes that the suitors must shoot through. When Odysseus kills the first suitor, he fights with his father, killing the other suitors and deciding to kill the maids and the evil slaves.

Odysseus shows many great qualities. He is a great leader, although he sometimes makes mistakes such as not telling his crew about the bag of winds, or giving information to Polyphemus about his identity. He is cunning, like Telemachus in the contest, and he shows great skill in both stringing the bow, and fighting techniques in killing the suitors. He is brutal in killing all the suitors, even when the priest asks to be spared, but is fair to spare the herald at the end of book 22. He is very heroic in coming up with plans, such as the plan to escape from Polyphemus, or the plan to rescue his men from Circe. He is strong like his son when he carried back a stag to him men with which to feed them.

Overall the two of them are very similar as I have shown. They are both great leaders and kill the suitors together after making a joint plan. Both of them are very skilful and are hospitable to those around them.

Examiner Commentary

Middle of Level 3

There is very good knowledge throughout, but this is definitely an essay of two character sketches where the actual title is only loosely considered by the candidate. The links between the two characters are rather simplistic when attempted (e.g. they both kill suitors). As a result lots of good factual information gets rather wasted. This is a typical failing when candidates are asked to compare two things. They end up just describing them. The conclusion adds the idea of hospitality which is unsupported anywhere in the response. No attempt is made to argue against the statement.

Example 2

The characters of Telemachus and Odysseus are similar in many ways in the *Odyssey*. Both of them are very sensible and clever in the plans that they make. Odysseus comes up with a great plan to overcome Polyphemus involving getting him drunk, blinding him, and waiting under the sheep for Polyphemus to let them out in the morning. He also cleverly asks to attempt to string the bow. Telemachus also is clever in how he deals with the suitors in the build up to the contest.

Both are excellent fighters. Odysseus kills Antinous and Eurymachus in the battle in the hall and Telemachus kills suitors too. However Telemachus is not as good as Odysseus as when he kills his opponent, he leaves the spear in him. He also leaves the store-room unlocked, something that I doubt Odysseus' would have done. However he is learning to be like his father and this is part of his growing up.

Both of them are very brutal. Odysseus does not spare any of the suitors who beg, and Telemachus does not spare the maids who had been disloyal, instead hanging them.

Both of them are excellent speakers. Odysseus' tells a very convincing tale to his wife and Telemachus also speaks persuasively in book 21 when he says he can give the bow to whoever he likes.

However there are ways in which they are not alike. Odysseus can be very boastful as we see when he reveals his name to Polyphemus. Odysseus also shows poor leadership at times on his travels home with his men. For example he does not listen to his men when they tell him not to enter Polyphemus' cave and he doesn't listen to them when they tell him not to anger Polyphemus. Telemachus does not have these qualities.

Overall, Odysseus and Telemachus are alike because they both come up with good plans and are good fighters. They both behave without mercy in the battle, although they do spare those who deserve it. Odysseus though has more bad qualities.

Examiner Commentary

Bottom of Level 5

There is fine knowledge. There could be a little more detail, such as the names of Telemachus' victim or the slaves who are spared. Telemachus' intelligence in the bow contest is vague, but otherwise there is a lot of detail. The analysis is excellent on the whole. There is a wide range of evidence (perhaps there could be other stories from Books 9–10 than Polyphemus) and there is a very good balanced argument. The conclusion adds little, and it is slightly contradictory in the idea of mercy.

Example 3

In some ways Telemachus is like his father, but in many ways he is not. Odysseus has authority and commands his men well. This is shown when he gets them off Polyphemus' island. He does this with a clever plan which involved blinding Polyphemus. He chose to do this as he was trapped in the cave and the door stone prevented his departure. He then got Polyphemus drunk and blinded him with a stake that he had made. The men then clung on to the bellies of the sheep overnight until Polyphemus let them out of the cave in the morning. When Polyphemus was letting the flock out the following morning, Odysseus and his men were not spotted as Polyphemus foolishly only felt their backs. However Odysseus' desire for kleos made him reveal his identity to Polyphemus, getting them all cursed.

Telemachus is similarly intelligent as he sets up the contest of the bow, putting the axes in line. Even the suitors are impressed at his skills. He shows intelligence just like his father. Odysseus also showed his intelligence numerous other times, in particular making Circe release the men.

Both of them are very good fighters. Odysseus shows this by firstly shooting Antinous in the chest, then Eurymachus and finally defeating the suitors, but also shows his skills in sacking the island of the Cicones. Telemachus kills several of the suitors including Agelaus and nearly strings the bow. However he proves he is not quite as knowledgeable in battle by leaving a spear in one of the suitors for fear of attack.

Examiner Commentary

Bottom of Level 4

There are some quite detailed facts here. However there is no need to go into such detail about Polyphemus, and a couple of minor errors (Antinous not killed in the chest, Agelaus not killed by Telemachus) mean this is not the highest quality. There are some decent comparisons, especially in reference to fighting and good balance in this point, but a point could be made about the suitors not respecting Telemachus' authority. The points about intelligence are ok with some reasonable examples. Perhaps with less on Polyphemus, there could be another point or two.



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