

Advanced GCE
GCE CLASSICS

F390 QP

Unit CC10: Virgil and the world of the hero

**Additional Specimen Commentary
Question**

Morning/Afternoon

Time: 2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet (8 pages)



SPECIMEN

This document consists of 4 printed pages.

Section A: Commentary Question

Marks are awarded for the quality of written communication in your answer.

1 Read the passages and answer the questions.

Passage 1

Then Menelaos, master of the war-cry, took Adrestos alive. His pair of horses, bolting in panic across the plain, had tangled in the shoots of a tamarisk and broken off the curved chariot at the end of the pole. They ran on by themselves towards the city, where the others were fleeing terror-struck, and he was tumbled headlong from the car over the wheel, into the dust face down: and Menelaos, son of Atreus, stood over him, holding a long-shadowed spear. Then Adrestos took him by the knees and begged with him: 'Take me alive, son of Atreus, and win a ransom of proper worth. My father is rich, there are many treasures stored in his house, bronze and gold, and iron laboriously worked. My father would give you unlimited ransom from this store, if he learnt that I was alive by the ships of the Achaians.'

So he spoke, and began to have effect on Menelaos' heart within him: and Menelaos was about to give him to his lieutenant to take back to the Achaians' fast ships. But Agamemnon came running to face him, and loudly berated him: 'Menelaos, dear brother, why this concern for men's lives? Did you get the very best treatment from the Trojans in your house? Not one of them must escape stark destruction at our hands, even the boys still carried in their mothers' wombs – not even they must escape, but all be extinguished together, wiped from Ilios without sight or ceremony.'

Homer, *Iliad*, Book 6, 35-61

Passage 2

First a rumour of this calamity came flying to Aeneas and then a reliable messenger, to tell him his men were on the very edge of destruction; the Trojans were in retreat; now was the time to help them. Everything that stood before him he harvested with the sword, cutting a broad swathe through the enemy ranks, and burning with rage as he looked for this Turnus flushed with slaughter. Before his eyes he could see Pallas, Evander, everything, the table he had sat down to that day when he first came to their house, and the right hands of friendship they had given him. Four warrior sons of Sulmo he now captured alive and four reared by Ufens, to sacrifice them as offerings to the shade of Pallas and pour their captive blood on the flames of his pyre. Next he aimed his deadly spear from long range at Magus, who cleverly ran under it. The quivering spear flew over his head and he clasped the knees of Aeneas with this prayer: 'By the shade of your own father and the hopes you have of Iulus as he grows to manhood, I beg you to spare this life of mine for the sake of my son and my father. Our home is a high-built palace, and buried deep within it I have talents of engraved silver and great weights of gold, both worked and unworked. A Trojan victory does not depend on me. My one life will not make so great a difference.' This was Aeneas' reply: 'Keep for your children all those talents of silver and gold you talk about. Turnus put an end to such war-trading the moment he murdered Pallas. So judges the shade of my father Anchises. And so judges Iulus.' When he had spoken he took Magus' helmet in his left hand, and bending back his neck when he was still begging for mercy, he drove the sword home to the hilt.

Virgil, *Aeneid*, Book 10, 511-537

- (a) How successfully does Virgil make Passage 2 a vivid piece of writing? [25]
- (b) Using these passages as a starting point, which writer lays more importance on the theme of revenge? In your answer, you should include discussion of both the *Aeneid* and the books of the *Iliad* you have studied. [25]

[Section A Total: 50]

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OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced GCE

GCE CLASSICS

F390 MS

Unit CC10: Virgil and the world of the hero

Additional Specimen Mark Scheme

The maximum mark for this paper is **100**.

SPECIMEN

Section A		
Question Number	Answer	Marks
	Answers must be marked using the level descriptors in the marking grids and a mark awarded for each Assessment Objective. The following points are indicative and offer question specific guidance. They do not provide an exhaustive list and any relevant points should be credited.	
1 1(a)	<p>Read the passages and answer the questions.</p> <p>How successfully does Virgil make Passage 2 a vivid piece of writing?</p> <p>Areas for discussion might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of metaphor to emphasise the speed with which the rumour travels; how dire the situation is in which the Trojans find themselves; the repeated use of metaphor to emphasise Aeneas' killing spree, his anger and Turnus' bloodlust; the flashback of Aeneas' thoughts lend the passage a vivid immediacy; the barbaric nature of the sacrifices and what this shows about Aeneas' state of mind; description of his spear – 'deadly', 'flew', 'quivering' - all reinforces its power; the desperation of Magus' pleas for mercy; the speed and violence with which Aeneas dispatches his enemy. <p>[AO1 10 marks + AO2 15 marks = 25 marks]</p>	[25]
1(b)	<p>Using these passages as a starting point, which writer lays more importance on the theme of revenge? In your answer, you should include discussion of both the <i>Aeneid</i> and the books of the <i>Iliad</i> you have studied.</p> <p>It would be easy to argue that the <i>Iliad</i> places greater emphasis on the theme of revenge and candidates might consider the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Trojan war is caused by the abduction of Helen and Menelaos' desire for her return; Agamemnon's ferocity as demonstrated in the passage; Achilleus' anger following the death of Patroklos and his subsequent actions in battle; Hekabe's desire for revenge upon Achilleus. <p>However, the return of Hektor's body and the care with which it is prepared could be argued to demonstrate that there is a limit to how far revenge is taken.</p> <p>With regards to the <i>Aeneid</i>, it might be argued that revenge, even though it is not as prominent as in the <i>Iliad</i>, is still crucially important. The epic concludes with Aeneas choosing to kill Turnus instead of sparing the conquered in an effort to exact vengeance for the death of Pallas. Similar behaviour is evident in the passage. Evander also expects this in repayment for the hospitality he has shown Aeneas. Dido's death leads to perpetual enmity between Carthage and Rome. There are many other acts of vengeance which might be cited.</p> <p>[AO1 10 marks + AO2 15 marks = 25 marks]</p>	[25]
Section A Total		[50]