

Section A: Homer

Answer **all** the questions on the text you have studied.

Homer's *Iliad*

Choose **one** of the following translations of the *Iliad* and answer the questions which follow.

Passage A: Homer, *Iliad*, 16.818–845

When Hector saw great-hearted Patroclus wounded and in retreat, he made his way towards him through the ranks and, coming up, stabbed him with his spear in the lower belly, driving the bronze clean through. Patroclus thudded to the ground, throwing the whole Greek army into consternation. As a lion's will to fight overpowers an indomitable wild boar when the fearless pair battle it out in the mountains over a little stream; both wish to drink there, but the lion's strength prevails and his panting enemy is overcome – so, after killing many men himself, Menoetius' strong son fell to a close-range thrust from Hector, who now spoke to him in triumph with winged words:

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'Patroclus, you probably thought you'd sack our town, make Trojan women slaves and ship them off to the land of your fathers. You innocent! In their defence, Hector's swift horses were racing into battle – I, Hector, finest spearman of the war-loving Trojans, who stand between them and the day of slavery. As for you, vultures are going to eat you on this very spot. Miserable wretch! Even great Achilles did not save you. I can imagine all the instructions he gave you on your way out, while he stayed behind: "Charioteer Patroclus, don't come back to the hollow ships till you have ripped through the tunic on man-slaying Hector's chest and soaked it with his blood." That, I imagine, is what he must have said; and like an idiot you took him at his word.'

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Fading fast you replied, charioteer Patroclus:

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'Hector, boast loud and long while you can. Zeus and Apollo handed you that victory. *They* conquered me.'

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Trans: E.V. Rieu

But Hector, seeing brave Patroclus withdraw, struck by the blade, made his way to him through the ranks, and drove at him with his spear, piercing the lower belly and ramming the point home. Patroclus fell with a thud, to the grievous sorrow of the Achaean army. As a lion in the high mountains may fight with a tireless wild boar over a trickling stream from which both seek to drink, and conquers his panting enemy by strength alone, so Hector, Priam's son, overcame the valiant son of Menoetius, who himself had killed so many men, and striking him close at hand with his spear robbed him of his life. Then straddling him, he shouted in victory: 'I think you boasted you'd sack our city, Patroclus, take our women captive, sail with them to your native land. How foolish! Hector and his swift horses are here to fight for them, Hector the finest spearman among the warlike Trojans, I who shield them from the day of doom, while as for you, the vultures shall have you. Even Achilles, with all his valour, could not save you, wretched man, though I don't doubt he told you as you left, for he chose to stay: "Patroclus, master horseman, don't return to the hollow ships till you've pierced the tunic at man-killing Hector's chest and drenched it in his blood." No doubt that's what he said, and you in your madness thought it would be so.'

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But though your strength was ebbing fast, horse-taming Patroclus, yet you answered: 'Boast, while you can, Hector, for Zeus and Apollo it was who gave you victory. *They* conquered me: they stripped the armour from my shoulders.'

Trans: A.S. Kline

- 1 Explain why this passage is a dramatic piece of writing. Use references to **Passage A** to support your answer. **[10]**

- 2* Explain who you think was the most responsible for the death of Patroclus. You may use **Passage A** as a starting point in your answer. **[20]**

Homer's *Odyssey*

Choose **one** of the following translations of the *Odyssey* and answer the questions which follow.

Passage B: Homer, *Odyssey*, 12.403–425

'When we had left the island astern and no other land, or anything but sky and water, was to be seen, Zeus brought a sombre cloud to rest above the hollow ship so that the sea was darkened by its shadow. Before she had run very far, a howling wind suddenly sprang up from the West and hit us with hurricane force. The squall snapped both forestays simultaneously. As the mast toppled, all the rigging tumbled into the hold, and the mast itself, reaching the stern, struck the helmsman on the head and smashed in all the bones of his skull. He plunged like a diver from the deck, and his brave soul left his body. Then at one and the same moment Zeus thundered and struck the vessel with lightning. The whole ship reeled from the blow of his bolt and was filled with the smell of sulphur. My men were flung overboard and round the black hull they floated like sea-gulls on the waves. There was no homecoming for them: the god saw to that. 5

'Meanwhile I kept shifting from one part of the ship, to another, till a great wave tore her sides from her keel, which the sea then swept along denuded of its ribs. It snapped the mast off close to the keel, but as the backstay, which was a leather rope, had fallen across the mast, I used it to lash mast and keel together, and astride these two timbers I became the sport of the furious winds.' 10 15

Trans: E.V. Rieu

It was not till the island fell astern, and we were out of sight of all but sky and sea, that Zeus anchored a black cloud above our hollow ship, and the waves beneath were dark. She had not run on for long before there came a howling gale, a tempest out of the west, and the first squall snapped both our forestays, so that the mast toppled backwards and the rigging fell into the hold, while the tip of the mast hitting the stern struck the steersman's skull and crushed the bones. He plunged like a diver from the deck, and his brave spirit fled the bones. 5

At that same instant Zeus thundered and hurled his lightning at the ship. Struck by the bolt she shivered from stem to stern, and filled with sulphurous smoke. Falling from the deck, my men floated like sea-gulls in the breakers round the black ship. The gods had robbed them of their homecoming. But I ran up and down the ship till a surge ripped the sides from the keel, and drove her on naked, snapping the mast close to the keel. The backstay of ox-hide rope lay across the mast, and with it I lashed the keel and mast together, and sitting astride I was carried before the driving wind. 10

Trans: A.S. Kline

- 3 Explain why this passage is a dramatic piece of writing. Use references to **Passage B** to support your answer. [10]
- 4* Explain who you think was the most responsible for the troubles Odysseus' men faced on their travels. You may use **Passage B** as a starting point in your answer. [20]

[Section A Total: 30]

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Section B: Virgil

Answer **all** the questions from this section.

Choose **one** of the following translations of the *Aeneid* and answer the questions which follow.

Passage C: Virgil, *Aeneid* 9.424–448

<p>This was too much for Nisus. Out of his mind with terror and unable to endure his anguish, he broke cover, shouting at the top of his voice: 'Here I am! Here I am! I am the one who did it! Aim your weapons at me, you Rutulians! The whole scheme was mine. He is innocent. He could not have done it. I swear by this sky above me and the stars who know the truth, his only offence is to have loved the wrong friend too much!' He was still speaking as the sword was driven through the ribs of Euryalus, full force, shattering his white breast. He rolled on the ground in death, the blood flowed over his beautiful body, his neck grew limp and the head drooped on his shoulders, like a scarlet flower languishing and dying when its stem has been cut by the plough, or like poppies bowing their heads when the rain burdens them and their necks grow weary. But Nisus rushed into the thick of the enemy, looking only for Volcens. Volcens was the only thought in his mind. The Rutulians gathered around their leader and in close fighting threw Nisus back again and again as he came at them from one side after another, but he bore on none the less, whirling a sword like lightning till he met the Rutulian face to face and buried it in his mouth as he opened it to shout. So, in the moment of his own dying, he cut off the breath of his enemy. Then, pierced through and through, he hurled himself on the dead body of his friend and rested there at last in the peace of death.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p>
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Trans: D. West

<p>Then, truly maddened with fear, Nisus shouted aloud, unable to hide himself in the dark any longer, or endure such agony: On me, Rutulians, turn your steel on me, me who did the deed! The guilt is all mine, he neither dared nor had the power: the sky and the all-knowing stars be witnesses: he only loved his unfortunate friend too much.'</p> <p>He was still speaking, but the sword, powerfully driven, passed through the ribs and tore the white breast. Euryalus rolled over in death, and the blood flowed down his lovely limbs, and his neck, drooping, sank on his shoulder, like a bright flower scythed by the plough, bowing as it dies, or a poppy weighed down by a chance shower, bending its weary head. But Nisus rushed at them, seeking Volcens above all, intent on Volcens alone.</p> <p>The enemy gathered round him, to drive him off, in hand to hand conflict. He attacked none the less, whirling his sword like lightning, until he buried it full in the face of the shrieking Rutulian, and, dying, robbed his enemy of life. Then, pierced through, he threw himself on the lifeless body of his friend, and found peace at last in the calm of death.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p>
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Trans: A.S. Kline

- 5 Explain how the violence of war is conveyed in this passage. Use references to **Passage C** to support your answer. [10]
- 6* 'Love leads to loss in the *Aeneid*.' Discuss whether you agree with this statement. You may use **Passage C** as a starting point in your answer. [20]

[Section B Total: 30]

Section C: Homer and Virgil

Answer **Question 7** with reference to **Passage C** and either **Passage A** or **B**.

- 7 Assess which passage you consider to be the more emotionally moving. You should refer to the passage from the *Aeneid* **and** the passage from the work of Homer you have read. [10]

Answer **one** of the following questions.

Use classical sources, and secondary sources, scholars and/or academic works to support your argument. You should also consider possible interpretations of sources by different audiences.

Either

Homer: *Iliad*

- 8* 'Homer has portrayed his men like gods, and gods like men.' Discuss how far the gods and goddesses are portrayed in a human way in the *Iliad*. [30]

Or

Homer: *Odyssey*

- 9* 'It is impossible to sympathise with the Suitors; they are all just a bunch of villains.' Discuss how far you agree with this assessment of the Suitors in the *Odyssey*. [30]

Or

Virgil: *Aeneid*

- 10* 'Aeneas lacks any ordinary human emotions.' Discuss how far you think this is true of the way he is portrayed in the *Aeneid*. [30]

[Section C Total: 40]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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