



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 13 May 2025 – Afternoon

AS Level Classical Civilisation

H008/11 The World of the Hero

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- This question paper has **two** options:
Option 1: The *Iliad*
Option 2: The *Odyssey*
- Choose **one** option: answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B for that option.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **65**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **12** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

Option 1: The *Iliad*

Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

Section A

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

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

Passage A

Homer, *Iliad*, 9.369–388

'Tell him all I say and tell him and tell him in public. Then the rest of the army can make their feelings clear when he tries to cheat any other Greek. He is utterly shameless, but still the dog cannot even bring himself to look me in the eye. He'll get no advice or action from me. He has cheated me and played me false. He won't take me in again. Once is enough. He can go to hell in his own good time. Zeus wise in counsel has removed his brains.

5

'I hate his gifts and value *him* at one splinter. Not if he gave me ten or twenty times as much as he possesses or could raise elsewhere, or all the revenues of Orchomenus or Thebes – Egyptian Thebes where the houses are stuffed with treasure, and through every one of a hundred gates two hundred warriors ride out with their chariots and horses – not if he gave me gifts numerous as grains of sands or specks of dust, would Agamemnon ever win me over, until he has paid back the whole heart-rending insult.'

10

Translation: E.V. Rieu

OR

Tell him openly all that I say, so the rest can take umbrage when he tries to cheat some other Greek, shameless as he is. Yet not shameless enough to look me in the face! I shall neither help by my advice or effort, so utterly has he cheated me and wronged me. He will not fool me with his words again. So much for him. Let him go swiftly to perdition, since Zeus the counsellor robs him of his wits.

5

As for his gifts they are hateful in my eyes, and not worth a hair. Even if he gave ten or twenty times what he has, and raised levies elsewhere, though it were all the wealth that flows to Orchomenus, or Egyptian Thebes, where the very houses are filled with treasure, and two hundred warriors with horse and chariot sally out from its hundred gates, not if he gave me as many gifts as the grains of sand or motes of dust, could he persuade me. First he must pay me fully in kind for this shame that stings my heart.

10

Translation: A.S. Kline

- 1 What had Agamemnon done to make Achilles so angry? [1]
- 2 Why did Agamemnon take this action? [1]
- 3 Why do you think Achilles is so angry about what Agamemnon has done to him? [1]
- 4 What does Achilles intend to do on the day after this meeting? [1]
- 5 Explain how **Passage A** is a vivid piece of writing.
Make **four** points and support each point with reference to **Passage A**. [8]

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

Passage B

Homer, *Iliad*, 22.300–333

‘Evil death is no longer far away; it is staring me in the face and there is no escape. Zeus and his Archer son must long have been resolved on this, for all their earlier goodwill and help.

‘So now my destiny confronts me. Let me at least sell my life dearly and not without glory, after some great deed for future generations to hear of.’

With these words Hector drew the sharp, long, heavy sword hanging down at his side. He gathered himself and swooped like a high-flying eagle that drops to earth through black clouds to pounce on a tender lamb or cowering hare. So Hector swooped, brandishing his sharp sword. 5

Achilles sprang to meet him, his heart filled with savage determination. He kept his chest covered with his fine, ornate shield; his glittering helmet with its four plates nodded, and above it danced the lovely plumes that Hephaestus had lavished on the crest. Like a star moving with others through the night, Hesperus, the loveliest star set in the skies – such was the gleam from his spear’s sharp point as he weighed it in his right hand with murder in his heart for godlike Hector, searching that handsome body for its most vulnerable spot. 10

Hector’s body was completely covered by the fine bronze armour he had taken from great Patroclus when he killed him, except for the flesh that could be seen at the windpipe, where the collar bones hold the neck from the shoulders, the easiest place to kill a man. As Hector charged him, godlike Achilles drove at this spot with his spear, and the point went right through Hector’s soft neck, though the heavy bronze head did not cut his windpipe and left him still able to speak. Hector crashed in the dust, and godlike Achilles triumphed over him: 15

‘Hector, no doubt you imagined, as you stripped Patroclus, that you would be safe. You never thought of me.’ 20

Translation: E.V. Rieu

OR

‘An evil fate’s upon me, Death is no longer far away, and him there is no escaping. Zeus, and his son, the Far-Striker, decided all this long ago, they who were once eager to defend me, and destiny now overtakes me. But let me not die without a fight, without true glory, without some deed that men unborn may hear.’

With this, he [Hector] drew the sharp blade at his side, a powerful long-sword, and gathering his limbs together swooped like a high-soaring eagle that falls to earth from the dark clouds to seize a sick lamb or a cowering hare. So Hector swooped, brandishing his keen blade. Achilles ran to meet him heart filled with savage power, covering his chest with his great, skilfully worked shield, while above his gleaming helm with its four ridges waved the golden plumes Hephaestus placed thickly at its crest. Bright as the Evening Star that floats among the midnight constellations, set there the loveliest jewel in the sky, gleamed the tip of Achilles sharp spear brandished in his right hand, as he sought to work evil on noble Hector, searching for the likeliest place to land a blow on his fair flesh.

Now, the fine bronze armour he stripped from mighty Patroclus when he killed him covered all Hector’s flesh except for one opening at the throat, where the collarbones knit neck and shoulders, and violent death may come most swiftly. There, as Hector charged at him, noble Achilles aimed his ash spear, and drove its heavy bronze blade clean through the tender neck, though without cutting the windpipe or robbing Hector of the power of speech. Hector fell in the dust and Achilles shouted out in triumph: ‘While you were despoiling Patroclus, no doubt, in your folly, you thought yourself quite safe, Hector, and forgot all about me in my absence.’

Translation: A.S. Kline

- 6 Which immortal has just tricked Hector? [1]
- 7 How did this immortal trick Hector? [1]
- 8 What does Hector ask Achilles to do after this passage? [1]
- 9 Why do you think that this was important to Hector? [1]
- 10 Explain how far you think Achilles is shown to be admirable in **Passage B**.
Make **four** points and support each point with reference to **Passage B**. [8]
- 11* ‘Evil death’. Explain whether you think this is a fair description of the way death is presented in the *Iliad*.

You may use **Passage B** as a starting point, and your own knowledge of the *Iliad* in your answer. [16]

[Section A Total: 40]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

- 12*** 'Mortal women are of little importance to mortal men in the *Iliad*.' Explain how far you agree with this statement. **[25]**

Or

- 13*** Discuss the different ways in which the immortals are involved in the *Iliad* and explain how they contribute to the success of the epic. **[25]**

[Section B Total: 25]

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Option 2: The *Odyssey*

Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

Section A

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

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

Passage A

Homer, *Odyssey*, 5.314–333

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 in two and flung the sail and half-deck far out 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 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 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 toss it to the North to play with, and now the East would leave it for the West to chase.

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Translation: E.V. Rieu

OR

Even as he thought this, a great wave, sweeping down with terrible power, crashed over him, and whirled his raft around. Loosing the steering oar, he was thrown far from the raft, while a savage blast of tempestuous wind snapped the mast in two, and yardarm and sail fell far off in the sea. Long the wave held him under, for the clothes Calypso gave him weighed him down, and he could not surface from under the great wave's flow. At last he rose, and spat out bitter brine that ran too in streams from his hair. Labouring as he was, he still remembered the raft, lunged after it through the breakers, holding tight clambered to its centre, and sat there, trying to escape a deadly fate: and the heavy seas carried the raft to and fro in their path. Just as in autumn the North Wind blows a ball of thistle tufts, clinging together, over the fields, so the winds drove the raft to and fro over the sea. Now the South Wind flung it to the North Wind to be played with, then the East Wind gave it to the West Wind in play.

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Translation: A.S. Kline

- 14 What is the name of the island Odysseus has just left? [1]
- 15 Apart from giving him clothes, give **one** other way Calypso helped Odysseus when he left her island. [1]
- 16 Which immortal has created the storm in the passage? [1]
- 17 Why did this immortal do this? [1]
- 18 Explain how **Passage A** is a vivid piece of writing.
Make **four** points and support each point with reference to **Passage A**. [8]

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

Passage B

Homer, *Odyssey*, 22.4–40

‘The match that was to seal your fate is over,’ he [Odysseus] called out to the Suitors. ‘Now for another target which no man has yet hit – if I can hit it and Apollo grants my prayer.’ And with that he levelled a deadly shaft straight at Antinous.

Antinous had just reached for his fine cup to take a draught of wine, and the golden, two-handled beaker was balanced in his hands. No thought of bloodshed entered his head. For who could guess, there in that festive company, that one man, however powerful he might be, would bring evil death and black doom on him against such odds? Odysseus took aim and shot him in the neck. The point passed clean through his tender throat. The cup dropped from his hand as he was hit and he lurched over to one side. His life-blood gushed from his nostrils in a turbid jet. His foot lashed out and kicked the table from him; his food was scattered on the ground, and bread and meat lay there in the dirt. 5 10

When the Suitors saw the man collapse, there was uproar in the hall. They sprang from their chairs and rushed in confusion about the room, searching the solid walls on every side. But not a shield or sturdy spear was there to lay hands on. They rounded in fury on Odysseus: ‘Stranger, men make a dangerous target; you have played your last match. Now you shall surely die. You have killed the greatest nobleman in Ithaca: for that the vultures shall eat you.’ Each of them laboured under the delusion that he had killed the man by accident. It had not dawned upon the fools that the fate of all of them was sealed. 15

The master-strategist Odysseus gave them a black look. ‘You dogs!’ he cried. ‘You never thought to see me back from Troy. So you fleeced my household; you raped my maids; you courted my wife behind my back though I was alive – with no more fear of the gods in heaven than of the human vengeance that might come. One and all, your fate is sealed.’ 20

Translation: E.V. Rieu

OR

'Here is a clear end to the contest. Now I'll see if I can hit another target no man has as yet, and may Apollo grant my prayer!'

So saying, he [Odysseus] aimed a deadly shaft at Antinous, who was handling a fine golden two-handed cup, about to raise it to his lips and sip the wine, his thoughts far from death. How should he guess among the feasting crowd, that one man however powerful he might be could dare to bring a vile death and a dark doom on him? But Odysseus took aim and shot him through the neck. The point passed clean through the tender throat, and Antinous sank to one side, the cup falling at that moment from his hand, while a thick jet of blood gushed from his nostrils. His foot kicked the table away, dashing the food to the floor, and the bread and meat were fouled.

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When the Suitors saw the man fall, there was uproar throughout the hall, and they leapt from their seats in fear, running to the walls to find a shield or a stout spear of which there were no sign. Then they turned on Odysseus angrily: 'Stranger you'll pay for choosing a man as your target: no more contests for you, your time is up. You have killed the best of Ithaca's young men, and now the vultures will have you.' They imagined in truth that he had killed Antinous by accident, not realising that the net of fate had been thrown over them all. Resourceful Odysseus, glowered at them, and answered: 'You dogs! You thought I'd never return from the land of Troy, so you laid waste my house, forced my maids, and wooed my wife in secret though I was still alive, without fearing the gods who rule the wide sky, or that mortal vengeance would find you. Now the net of fate is thrown over you all.'

15

20

Translation: A.S. Kline

- 19 What had Odysseus just managed to do? [1]
- 20 Why do you think Odysseus killed Antinous first? [1]
- 21 Which immortal becomes involved in the battle against the Suitors? [1]
- 22 How does this immortal help Odysseus in the battle? Make **one** point. [1]
- 23 Explain how far you think Odysseus is shown to be admirable in **Passage B**.
Make **four** points and support each point with reference to **Passage B**. [8]
- 24* 'Revenge matters'. Explain why revenge is important in the *Odyssey* and evaluate how it adds to the success of the story.

You may use **Passage B** as a starting point, and your own knowledge of the *Odyssey* in your answer. [16]

[Section A Total: 40]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

25* 'Penelope is of little importance to Odysseus.' Explain how far you agree with this statement. [25]

Or

26* Discuss the different ways in which the immortals are involved in the *Odyssey* and explain how they contribute to the success of the epic. [25]

[Section B Total: 25]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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