

Modified Enlarged 24pt
OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 13 May 2025 – Afternoon

AS Level Classical Civilisation

H008/11 The World of the Hero

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes
plus your additional time allowance

YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



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 (*).

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 10

‘I hate his gifts and value him at one splinter. Not if he gave me ten or

twenty times as much as he possesses 15
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 20
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 25
heart-rending insult.’

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 5
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 10
his wits.

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, 15
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 20
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. 25

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.

5

'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.

10

15

Achilles sprang to meet him, his heart
filled with savage determination. He
kept his chest covered with his fine, 20
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 25
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, 30
searching that handsome body for its
most vulnerable spot.

Hector's body was completely
covered by the fine bronze armour he
had taken from great Patroclus when 35
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 40
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 45
crashed in the dust, and godlike
Achilles triumphed over him:

‘Hector, no doubt you imagined, as
you stripped Patroclus, that you would
be safe. You never thought of me.’ 50

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 5
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 10
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 15

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 20
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 25
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. 30

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 35
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 40
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.'

45

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 5
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 10
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 15
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 20
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 25
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 30
chase.

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 5
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, 10
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, 15
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 20
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 25
with, then the East Wind gave it to the
West Wind in play.

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. 5

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 10 15 20

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 25
meat lay there in the dirt.

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, 30
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 35
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 40
the man by accident. It had not dawned
upon the fools that the fate of all of
them was sealed.

The master-strategist Odysseus gave
them a black look. 'You dogs!' he cried. 45
'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 50
than of the human vengeance that might
come. One and all, your fate is sealed.'**

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 5
deadly shaft at Antinous, who was
handling a fine golden two-handled cup,
about to raise it to his lips and sip the
wine, his thoughts far from death. How
should he guess among the feasting 10
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 15
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 20
away, dashing the food to the floor, and
the bread and meat were fouled.

When the Suitors saw the man fall,
there was uproar throughout the hall,
and they leapt from their seats in fear, 25
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 30
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 35
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, 40
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. 45

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]

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