
CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/42

Paper 4 Classical Literature – Sources and Evidence

October/November 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

This paper contains two questions.

Answer **one** question.

Each question is marked out of 50.

You are advised to spend 20 minutes reading and thinking about the three passages in the question you have chosen to answer, and then 10 minutes planning your answer.

Answers need to make use of all three passages given for the question you are answering.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answer.

This document consists of **3** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** Insert.

1 Drama: the idea of tragedy

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

[Seneca] does not delay or complicate [his plays] by any moral dilemma ...; his tragedy is simply a disastrous event foretold and anticipated from the start, and pursued ruthlessly to its end. But nothing can be more horrifyingly final than the Senecan tragic climax.

E F Watling, *Seneca: Four Tragedies and Octavia*

Explore critically how accurate it is to claim that tragedy covers ‘a disastrous event foretold and anticipated from the start’. In your answer you should consider the passage above and your wider reading of tragedy, as well as the two passages below:

OEDIPUS: The night is at an end; but dimly yet
The Lord Sun shows his face – a dull glow rising
Out of a dusky cloud. It is a torch
Of evil omen, this pale fire he brings
With which to scan our plague-polluted homes.
Day will reveal the havoc of the night.
What king is happy on his throne? False joy,
How many ills thy smiling face conceals!
... How happy was the day
On which I came, escaped from the domain
Of Polybus my father, free in exile,
A fearless vagabond – so help me, gods! –
To stumble upon a kingdom. Now I fear
A fate unspeakable: to kill my father.

Seneca, *Oedipus*, 1–18 (with omissions)

MEDEA: A bad predicament all round – yes, true enough;
But don’t imagine things will end as they are now.
Trials are yet to come for this new-wedded pair;
Nor shall those nearest to them get off easily.

Do you think I would ever have fawned so on this man,
Except to gain my purpose, carry out my schemes?
Not one touch, not one word: yet he – oh, what a fool!
By banishing me at once he could have thwarted me
Utterly; instead, he allows me to remain one day.
Today three of my enemies I shall strike dead:
Father and daughter; and *my* husband.

Euripides, *Medea*, 366–376

2 Gods and Heroes: the importance of epic

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

If we ... reduce the storylines of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to bare essentials, the gods would not have to feature at all. Zeus's co-operation is not necessary, given the hero's larger-than-life status, to explain the disastrous effects of Achilles' withdrawal from battle, and neither do Poseidon or the Sun need to be invoked to account for misadventures at sea and the effect of twenty years' absence on a man's home.

E Kearns, *The Gods in the Homeric epics*

Explore critically what, if anything, the gods contribute to ancient epic. In your answer you should consider the passage above and your wider reading of epic, as well as the two passages below:

Athene is disguised as Mentor

These threats infuriated Athene, who rounded on Odysseus and rebuked him scathingly: 'Where is your spirit, Odysseus? Where has your prowess gone? You are not the man you were when for nine relentless years you fought the Trojans for royal Helen of the white arms, killed your man in the bitter struggle time and time again, and planned the stratagem that captured Priam's town with its broad streets. So how can it be that now, when you are in your very own home, and amongst your own possessions, you whine about your lack of courage in face of the Suitors?' ...

In spite of these words Athene did not yet grant him decisive victory, but continued to put the strength and courage of both Odysseus and his noble son to the test.

Homer, *Odyssey*, 22.224–239 (with omissions)

Jupiter is speaking to Juno

'You are the true sister of Jupiter and the second child of Saturn, such waves of anger do you set rolling from deep in your heart. But come now, lay aside this fury that arose in vain. I grant what you wish. I yield. I relent of my own free will. The people of Ausonia will keep the tongue of their fathers and their ancient ways. As their name is, so shall it remain. The Trojans will join them in body only and will then be submerged. Ritual I will give and the modes of worship, and I will make them all Latins, speaking one tongue. You will see that the people who arise from this admixture of Ausonian blood will be above all men, above the gods, in devotion and no other race will be their equals in paying you honour.'

Virgil, *Aeneid*, 12.830–41

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