

Section A: Greek Tragedy

Answer **Question 1** and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Read the passage and answer the question.

ANTIGONE: I won't insist,
no, even if you should have a change of heart,
I'd never welcome you in the labour, not with me.
So, do as you like, whatever suits you best—
I will bury him myself. 5
And even if I die in the act, that death will be a glory.
I will lie with the one I love and loved by him—
an outrage sacred to the gods! I have longer
to please the dead than please the living here:
in the kingdom down below I'll lie forever. 10
Do as you like, dishonour
the laws the gods hold in honour.

ISMENE: I'd do them no dishonour ...
but defy the city? I have no strength for that.

ANTIGONE: You have your excuses. I am on my way, 15
I will raise a mound for him, for my dear brother.

ISMENE: Oh Antigone, you're so rash—I'm so afraid for you!

ANTIGONE: Don't fear for me. Set your own life in order.

(Sophocles, *Antigone* 82–97)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss the portrayal of family relationships in *Antigone*.
[20]

EITHER

2 'All women in tragedy are terrifying.'
To what extent do you agree with this description? In your answer you should refer to **at least two**
plays. [30]

OR

3 'There are no good kings in tragedy.'
How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should refer to **at least two** plays.
[30]

Section B: Homeric Epic

Answer **Question 4** and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

- 4 Read the passage and answer the question.

Nestor advises Agamemnon:

Not a soul on earth today could live with those men in battle – and they listened to what I said and followed my advice. You two do the same. It’s for your own good to go along with what I tell you.

‘You, Agamemnon, though you have the authority, do not rob him of his girl. The Greek army gave her to him first. Let him keep his prize. And you, Achilles, give up your desire to cross swords with your leader. Through the authority he derives from Zeus, a leader who holds the sceptre of power has more claim to our respect than anyone else. Even if you, with a goddess for mother, are the better fighter, yet Agamemnon is your superior since he rules more people. Agamemnon, cool your fury; I, Nestor, entreat you to put aside your anger against Achilles who is a mighty tower of strength for every Greek in the hell of battle.’

Lord Agamemnon replied and said:

‘Venerable sir, all that is very true.’

(Homer, *Iliad* 1.270–283)

Discuss to what extent this passage is typical of Homer’s portrayal of Nestor and other older characters, such as Priam. [20]

EITHER

- 5 ‘Mortal women in the Homeric epics are always depicted positively.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should discuss **both** the *Iliad* **and** the *Odyssey*. [30]

OR

- 6 ‘Homeric heroes all share the same motivations.’
How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should discuss **both** the *Iliad* **and** the *Odyssey*. [30]

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