



Rugby
School

Sixth Form Entrance Examination

Classical Civilisation

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions to candidates:

This paper consists of 3 sections printed on 3 pages.

You must answer all of the questions in sections 1 and 2.

You must answer ONE of the questions in section 3.

Questions are written in **bold font**.

Sources are shown with underlined font.

Explanatory details for literary sources are given in *italics*.

There are **45 marks** available in total (A.15+ B.15+ C.15)

Please write all answers on lined paper, writing the question in the margin, and writing your name at the head of each piece of paper you use.

Specimen paper

Section 1. Literature [15 marks]

Source A Homer, *The Odyssey* 1.60-95

Zeus responds to Athena's request to aid the hero Odysseus, kept from his home for 10 years.

Cloud-Gathering Zeus answered Athena then: 'My child, what words escape your lips? How could I ever forget godlike Odysseus, who exceeds all mortals in wisdom, and also in sacrifice to the deathless gods who inhabit the broad heavens? It is Poseidon, the Earth-Bearer, who is always filled with implacable anger against him, because of godlike Polyphemus, the strongest Cyclops of all, whom Odysseus blinded. The nymph Thoosa bore him, daughter of Phorcys who rules the barren sea: she slept with Poseidon in the hollow caves. Since that blinding, Poseidon, the Earth-Shaker, though he will not kill him, keeps Odysseus far from his native land. Come, let all here plan how he might come home: then Poseidon will relent, since he'll not be able to contend, alone, against all the deathless gods together.' The goddess, bright-eyed Athene, answered him: 'Father of us all, Son of Cronos, Highest King, if it truly pleases the blessed gods for wise Odysseus to return home, let us send Hermes, the Messenger, Slayer of Argus, to the isle of Ogygia, so he can tell the Nymph with the lovely tresses of our unalterable decision, that long-suffering Odysseus may come home.'

Source B Virgil, *Aeneid* 2.707-20...731-742

Virgil describes the hero Aeneas' flight from Troy with his family, while the city is under attack from the Greeks

Aeneas said: "come then, dear father, clasp my neck: I will carry you on my shoulders: that task won't weigh on me. Whatever may happen, it will be for us both, the same shared risk, and the same salvation. Let little Iulus come with me, and let my wife follow our footsteps at a distance. You servants, give your attention to what I'm saying. At the entrance to the city there's a mound, an ancient temple of forsaken Ceres, and a venerable cypress nearby, protected through the years by the reverence of our fathers: let's head to that one place by diverse paths. You, father, take the sacred objects, and our country's gods, in your hands: until I've washed in running water, it would be a sin for me, coming from such fighting and recent slaughter, to touch them.' ...

Aeneas explained: "I heard the sound of many marching feet and my father Anchises cried 'run, my son, run! They are coming this way. I can see the flames reflected on their shields and the glinting bronze of their swords.' At that moment, some evil power stole my mind. I ran off the easy path, leaving the familiar streets of Troy. Then it was that my wife Creusa was stolen from me by the cruelty of fate – whether she stopped, or lost her way, or sat down exhausted, no one can tell. I never saw her again. I did not realise she was lost until we reached the city gates."

1. "The damage the Greek and Roman gods inflict on humans is greater than the help they give." Based on the evidence of these sources and/or your own knowledge of the classical world, would you agree with this statement? [10]

2. What qualities are most important for an ancient hero, and why? You could use the evidence of these sources and/or your own knowledge in your answer. [5]

Section 2. Personal Response [15 marks]

3. In your opinion, why does the study of Classics matter in the 21st Century? You could talk about any areas of the ancient world you have studied or are interested in, as well as any facets of modern life/experience. [15]

Section 3. Essay [15 marks] **answer ONE question**

EITHER

4. “In ancient Greek and Roman society, the only people who would have comfortable lives were wealthy men.” To what extent do you agree? [15]

OR

5. We can learn more about the ancient world by studying literature than we can from studying archaeology and material remains.” To what extent do you agree? [15]

END OF PAPER