



2012 Classical Studies

Intermediate 2

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Classical Studies

Intermediate 2

Section A

Classical Drama: Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Marks

1. Oedipus: There is nothing I will not do to find the killer of Laius.

Why is it so important to Oedipus to find this killer?

- He wants to end the suffering of his people
- He wants to carry out the will of the gods
- He wants to avenge the death of Laius
- He wants to impress his people by being an effective leader
- He wants to avert any threat to himself
- Any 5 of the above or any other reasonable point

5

2. Messenger: I am looking for the house of Oedipus.

What vital information does the messenger reveal to Oedipus?

Any five reasonable points, for example:

- Polybus is dead
- Polybus and Merope were not the birth parents of Oedipus
- The messenger gave him to Polybus
- The messenger found Oedipus on the hillside
- The messenger set his ankles free from the rivets which bound them
- A shepherd from the house of Laius entrusted Oedipus to the messenger's care

5

3. Oedipus: What fate has come to me?

What has Oedipus learned about himself as a result of his enquiry into the death of Laius?

Any five reasonable points, for example:

- He was destined through prophecy to kill his father and marry his mother
- He was abandoned by his real parents as a result
- He was adopted by Polybus and Merope
- He did kill Laius
- He did marry his mother
- His children were the result of incest

5

4. “Under floor heating systems were used by the Romans.”

Describe this system of heating, and show in which buildings it would tend to be found.

Candidates should mention such features as:

- System called hypocaust
- Used pillars
- Floor tiled
- Floor and wall cavities
- Boiler
- Found in bathhouses, warm rooms, hot rooms
- Sometimes in villas of rich
- Any other relevant point

5

5. “A sacrifice to the gods was believed to be effective.”

Describe what happened during a Roman sacrifice, and explain some of the reasons Romans performed them.

Candidates should mention features such as:

- Sacrifice usually animal
- Description of common animal used
- Description of altar and location
- Use of knife
- Possibly entrails inspected
- Entering “contract” with gods
- Gods given power of dead animal
- Motivation for sacrifice (eg illness)
- Any other relevant point

5

6. “Metal detectors can sometimes do great damage to archaeology.”

Give arguments both for and against this statement.

Candidates should mention such arguments as:

- Results in more spectacular finds
- Results in more finds
- Often well treated, and sent to museums
- Can lead to personal enrichment
- Can result in finds damaged by amateurs
- Can result in trespassing and arguments over ownership
- Finds could be stolen
- Any other relevant point

5

7. "Pandora was given strict instructions not to open this box."

Give more details of the myth from which this extract comes.

- Pandora's husband told her not to open the box
- The box was a wedding gift from Zeus
- Zeus intended Pandora to open the box so that he could wreak revenge on mankind
- Pandora's curiosity led her to open the box
- She released all the world's evils and caused men to suffer
- Hope remained in the box
- Hope brought men comfort in the face of evil and suffering
- Any 5 of the above or any other reasonable point

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8. Study the picture below.



Give details of the myth shown in the picture.

Candidates should mention such features as:

- Crimes of Ixion (murder of father-in-law, attempted rape of Hera)
- Punishment (blasted by thunderbolt, burning wheel spinning in space)
- Any other relevant point

5

9. Study the picture below.



Give details of a myth shown in the picture.

Candidates should mention such features as:

- Acts of Prometheus (stealing fire, creating man from clay)
- Punishment (liver pecked out, only to be recreated; so punishment everlasting, release after Heracles killed bird)
- Acts of Tityus
- Punishment (liver pecked out just like Prometheus)
- Any other relevant point

5

Section B

Classical Drama: Sophocles, Oedipus the King

Marks

1. Do you think that Oedipus has shown admirable leadership qualities throughout this play?

Explain your answer with reference to the play.

Candidates should demonstrate knowledge and evaluation of 5 instances when Oedipus has or has not shown admirable leadership qualities.

Possible relevant points:

Admirable qualities:

- He listens to/consults his people
- He is sympathetic to their suffering
- He takes action – he has sent Creon to Delphi
- He is responsive to the gods – he launches an investigation
- He seeks the truth even when this turns against him – the contribution of Jocasta, the messenger and the shepherd
- He upholds a sense of decency – he is shocked by his own fate
- He accepts his error

Not admirable:

- He is bad tempered, impatient and insulting – Teiresias, shepherd, chorus
- He is accusatory/dismissive of Creon
- Hubris of Oedipus

10

2. Is Oedipus alone to blame for the tragic events of this play?

Explain your answer with reference to the play.

Candidates should evaluate whether or not Oedipus is to blame.

They should make reference to other influences, such as the gods, fate and the part played by Laius and Jocasta.

Possible relevant points:

Oedipus can be blamed:

- He was aware of the prophecy
- He left Laius for dead without checking who he was
- He married an older woman – Jocasta – without checking her background

Oedipus cannot be blamed:

- He did not know Polybus and Merope were not his real parents
- He left Corinth to avoid fulfilling the prophecy
- He murdered Laius in self defence
- He had feelings for Jocasta
- He was unaware of his true situation
- It was his destiny/fate to fulfil the prophecy and man cannot change his fate for it is beyond his control
- Laius and Jocasta should have ensured that he was killed

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3. Was the Roman Army an oppressor of the Britons, or actually a benefit to them?

Discuss both aspects.

Candidates will be given credit for mentioning some of the following:

Oppressor:

- Defeated tribes in battle under Julius Caesar and Claudius
- Used to suppress rebellions
- Used to destroy their religion
- Used to enforce taxation
- Any other relevant point

Benefit:

- Little evidence of resistance overall
- Brought law and order
- Brought employment opportunities
- Brought wealth to certain areas
- Encouraged new settlements in places
- Any other relevant point

10

4. How valuable was Britain to the Roman Empire?

Candidates will be given credit for discussing some of the following:

- Tin industry
- Iron industry
- Gold mining
- Wool and agricultural produce
- Provided slaves
- Provided taxation
- Secured Gaul from attack
- Held onto it until 410AD
- Provided soldiers
- Any other relevant factors

Contrary arguments

- Britain was one of the first areas abandoned
- Certainly not as rich as other provinces
- Romans did not bother to conquer all of it
- Any other relevant factors

10

Classical Mythology

Marks

5. Explain how, according to classical mythology, the universe began and was eventually ruled by gods.

Candidates should be able to give 10 reasonable points from the creation myths beginning with Chaos to the supremacy of the gods.

Possible points:

- In the beginning there was Chaos
- Chaos was a dark shapeless mass
- Ge emerges
- Ge creates Uranus and Pontus, the sea
- Ge and Uranus produce the giant race of Titans
- Cronos overpowers Uranus
- Cronos marries Rhea
- Cronos eats children
- Rhea tricks Cronos by feeding him a stone instead of Zeus
- Zeus grows up on Crete
- Rhea and Zeus feed Cronos a nasty drink
- Cronos vomits up his children
- Cronos is overpowered
- Zeus and the other gods take control
- Any other reasonable/relevant point

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6. Describe **two** myths of the Underworld involving female characters.

Explain whether or not they deserved their fate.

Candidates will be given credit for discussing two of the following myths and giving views on the fate of the female character:

- Hera attacked by Ixion
- The Danaids
- Eurydice
- Persephone
- Odysseus' mother
- Any other relevant factor

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[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]