

Leaving Cert Classical Studies

Sample Questions

Strand 1

(Odysseus only)

Strand 1
The World of Heroes
Odyssey

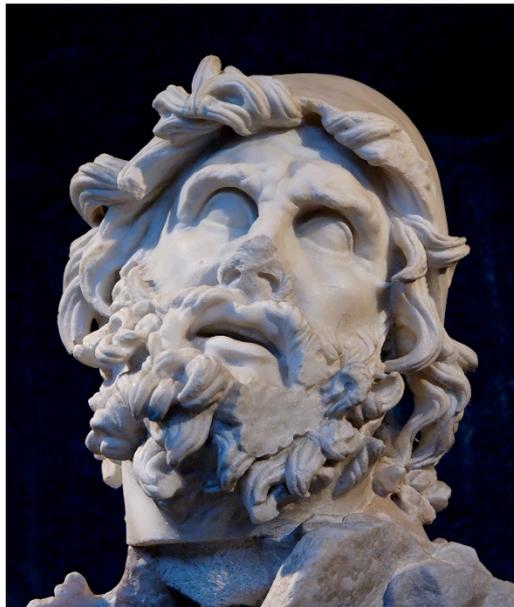
Essay Questions

1.	(a) Describe one mortal heroine from the <i>Odyssey</i> . (70) (b) How is her depiction different from the male heroes? (30)
2.	In Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> , Telemachus developed from being a shy and depressed young man into a confident and strong support for his father, Odysseus, in his battle with the Suitors. Trace this development and explain how it came about. (100)
3.	(a) Loyalty is the virtue most valued in Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> and its absence is severely punished. Discuss this statement. (70) (b) To what extent was "loyalty" relevant to the daily life of the Ancient Greeks? (30)
4.	(a) Describe the practice of hospitality and gift-giving as described by Homer in the <i>Odyssey</i> . (80) (b) How does Homer use the practice of hospitality and gift-giving to show whether characters are good or evil? (20)
5.	Discuss the view that love and justice are central themes of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> . Support your answer with reference to the <i>Odyssey</i> . (100)
6.	Odysseus shows all the qualities of a great hero in Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> . Discuss this view supporting your answer with reference to the text. (100)
7.	(a) Analyse the relationship between Penelope and her son Telemachus in Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> . (80) (b) Do you agree that Telemachus is a typical teenage boy? Give reasons for your answer. (20)
8.	(a) Analyse the part played by the swineherd Eumaeus in the <i>Odyssey</i> . (70) (b) As a slave, how is Eumaeus treated differently from the other characters? (30)
9.	From your study of the <i>Odyssey</i> do you agree that Odysseus was a great leader of men? Support your answer with reference to the text. (100)
10.	(a) Briefly recount the Cyclops episode from Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> . (60) (b) What does this episode reveal about Odysseus' qualities as a leader and a hero? (40)
11.	Discuss to what extent the <i>Odyssey</i> might be interpreted as an anti-war poem. (100)
12.	(a) Describe the role played by one god or goddess in the <i>Odyssey</i> . (60) (b) Evaluate their relationship with the human characters in the <i>Odyssey</i> . (40)
13.	The Trojan War is a key myth that underpins the <i>Odyssey</i> . Much of it is revealed to us during our reading of the <i>Odyssey</i> . (a) Give an outline of the Trojan War as revealed to us in the <i>Odyssey</i> . (50) (b) Describe other myths underpinning the <i>Odyssey</i> that are revealed to us in the text. (50)

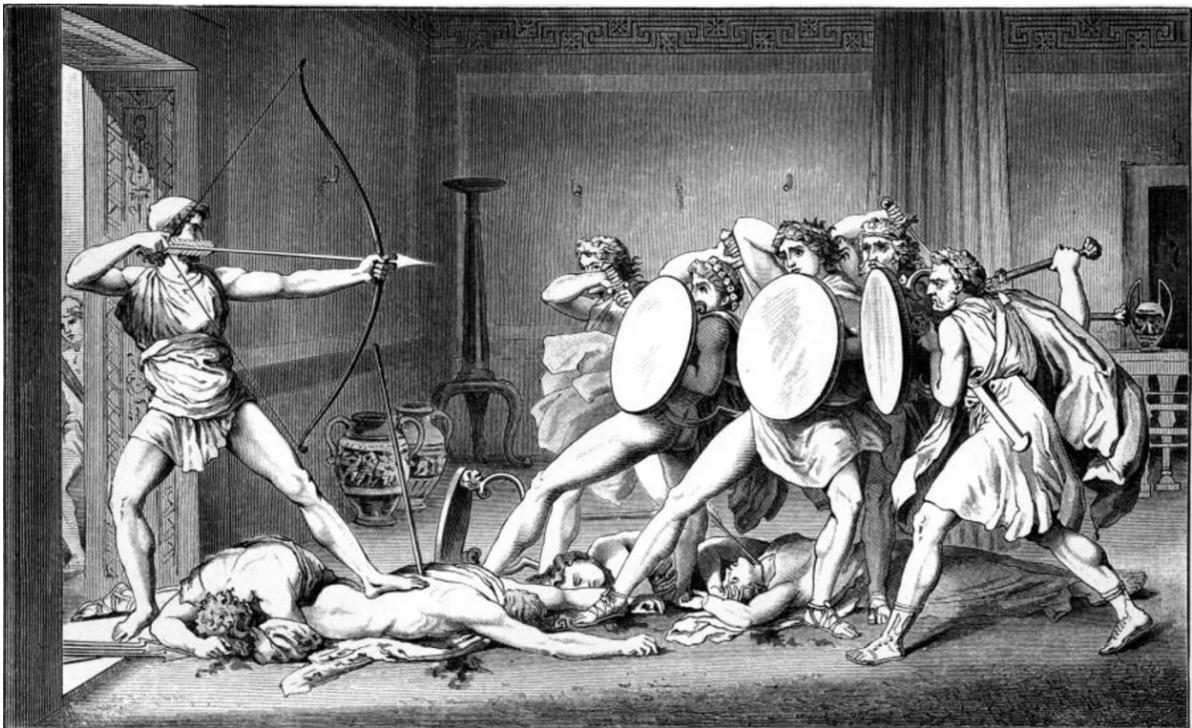
Stimulus Questions

Question 1:

Source A



Source B



Source C

Odysseus kills the suitors.

Odysseus ripped off his rags. Now naked, he leapt upon the threshold with his bow and quiver full of arrows, which he tipped out in a rush before his feet, and spoke. “Playtime is over. I will shoot again, towards another mark no man has hit. Apollo, may I manage it!” He aimed his deadly arrow at Antinous. The young man sat there, just about to lift his golden goblet, swirling wine around, ready to drink. He had no thought of death. How could he? Who would think a single man, among so many banqueters, would dare to risk dark death, however strong he was? Odysseus aimed at his throat, then shot. The point pierced all the way through his soft neck. He flopped down to the side and his cup slipped out of his hand, and then thick streams of blood gushed from his nostrils. His foot twitched and knocked the table down; food scattered on the ground. The bread and roasted meat were soiled with blood. Seeing him fall, the suitors, in an uproar, with shouts that filled the hall, jumped up and rushed to search around by all the thick stone walls for shields or swords to grab—but there were none. They angrily rebuked Odysseus.

“Stranger, you shot a man, and you will pay! You will join no more games—you have to die! For certain! You have killed the best young man in all of Ithaca. Right here, the vultures will eat your corpse.” Those poor fools did not know that he had killed Antinous on purpose, nor that the snares of death were round them all. Clever Odysseus scowled back and sneered, “Dogs! So you thought I would not come back home from Troy? And so you fleeced my house, and raped my slave girls, and you flirted with my wife while I am still alive! You did not fear the gods who live in heaven, and you thought no man would ever come to take revenge. Now you are trapped inside the snares of death.” At that, pale fear seized all of them. They groped to find a way to save their lives somehow. Only Eurymachus found words to answer. “If it is you, Odysseus, come back, then we agree! Quite right, the Greeks have done outrageous things to your estate and home. But now the one responsible is dead— Antinous! It was all his idea. He did not even really want your wife, but had another plan, which Zeus has foiled: to lie in ambush for your son, and kill him, then seize the throne and rule in Ithaca. Now he is slain—quite rightly. Please, my lord, have mercy on your people! We will pay in public, yes, for all the food and drink. We each will bring the price of twenty oxen, and pay you all the gold and bronze you want. Your anger is quite understandable.”

- *The Odyssey* Book 22 translated by Emily Wilson.

1. **Source A** is a sculpture of Odysseus. Describe this sculpture highlighting the emotional qualities of Odysseus character that the artist as captured.

Question 2

Source A

Eurycleia recognises Odysseus' scar

Then the old woman took the shining cauldron used for a footbath, and she filled it up with water—lots of cold, a splash of hot. Odysseus sat there beside the hearth, and hurriedly turned round to face the darkness. He had a premonition in his heart that when she touched him, she would feel his scar and all would be revealed. She kneeled beside him, and washed her master. Suddenly, she felt the scar.

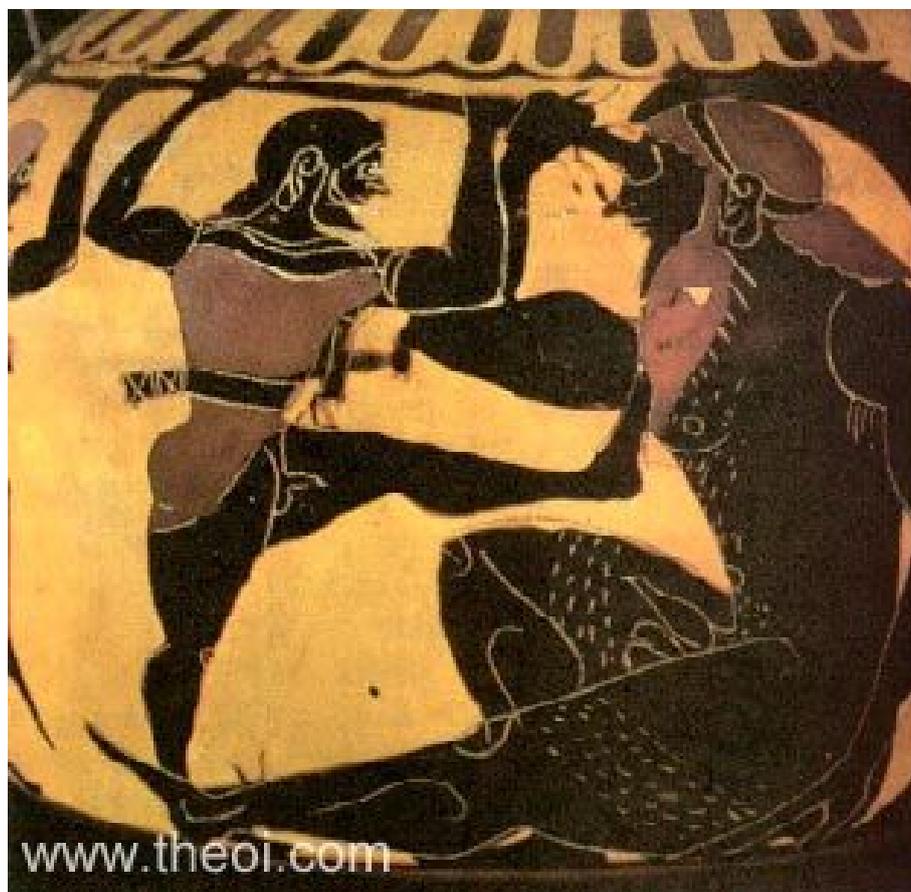
A white-tusked boar had wounded him on Mount Parnassus long ago. He went there with his maternal cousins and grandfather, noble Autolycus, who was the best of all mankind at telling lies and stealing. Hermes gave him this talent to reward him for burning many offerings to him. Much earlier, Autolycus had gone to Ithaca to see his daughter's baby, and Eurycleia put the new-born child on his grandfather's lap and said, "Now name your grandson—this much-wanted baby boy." He told the parents, "Name him this. I am disliked by many, all across the world, and I dislike them back. So name the child 'Odysseus.' And when he is a man, let him come to his mother's people's house, by Mount Parnassus. I will give him treasure and send him home rejoicing." When he grew, Odysseus came there to claim his gifts. His cousins and Autolycus embraced him, and greeted him with friendly words of welcome. His grandma, Amphithea, wrapped her arms around him like a vine and kissed his face and shining eyes. Autolycus instructed his sons to make the dinner. They obeyed and brought a bull of five years old and flayed it, and chopped it all in pieces, and then sliced the meat with skill and portioned it on skewers and roasted it with care, and shared it out, and everybody got the same amount. The whole day long they feasted, till the sun went down and darkness fell. Then they lay down and took the gift of sleep. When early Dawn, the new-born child with rosy hands, appeared, Autolycus went hunting with his dogs and with his sons; Odysseus went too. Up the steep wooded side of Mount Parnassus they climbed and reached its windswept folds. The sun rose from the calmly flowing depths of Ocean to touch the fields, just as the hunters came into a glen. The dogs had dashed in front, looking for tracks. Autolycus' sons came after, with Odysseus who kept close to the dogs, and brandished his long spear. A mighty boar lurked there; its lair was thick, protected from the wind; the golden sun could never strike at it with shining rays, and rain could not get in; there was a pile of fallen leaves inside. The boar had heard the sound of feet—the men and dogs were near. Out of his hiding place he leapt to face them, his bristles standing up, his eyes like fire, and stood right next to them. Odysseus was first to rush at him, his long spear gripped tight in his hand. He tried to strike; the boar struck first, above his knee, and charging sideways scooped a great hunk of flesh off with his tusk, but did not reach the bone. Odysseus wounded the boar's right shoulder, and the spear pierced through. The creature howled and fell to earth. His life flew out. Autolycus' sons bustled around and skilfully bound up the wound received by great Odysseus, and stopped the black blood with a charm, and took him back to their father's house, and nursed him well, then gave him splendid gifts, and promptly sent him back home to Ithaca, and he was glad. His parents welcomed him and asked him questions, wanting to know how he had got the wound. He told them he was hunting with his cousins on Mount Parnassus, and a boar attacked him; the white tusk pierced his leg. The old slave woman, holding his leg and

Question 3

Source A



Source B



Source C



1. Using the map from **Source A**, outline the journey of Odysseus. (10)

