



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/43

Paper 4 Classical Literature: Sources and Evidence

October/November 2020

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- Each question is worth 50 marks.

This document has 4 pages. Blank pages are indicated.

2 Gods and Heroes: the importance of epic

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

In the *Iliad*, which is a poem about war, heroes die all the time, but they're willing to die if their heroism on the battlefield brings them glorious renown ... but the *Odyssey* is a poem set in the aftermath of war, and one of the things it explores is what a hero might be once there are no more wars to fight ... The *Aeneid* revisits the world of Homer's poems but radically shifts their point of view.

D Mendelsohn, *An Odyssey* (2017) (adapted)

'Each epic depicts the nature of the hero completely differently.' Explore critically the extent to which you agree with this view. In your answer you should consider the passage above and your wider reading of epic, as well as the two passages below: [50]

Achilleus is speaking:

'My mother, the silver-footed goddess Thetis, says that I have two fates that could carry me to the end of death. If I stay here and fight on round the Trojans' city, then gone is my homecoming, but my glory will never die: and if I come back to my dear native land, then gone is my great glory, but my life will stretch long and the end of death will not overtake me quickly...

But then finally Phoinix spoke out ... 'If return home, glorious Achilleus, is really what your mind is thinking, and you refuse absolutely to keep the destroying fire away from our fast ships, because anger has come over your heart, how then, dear child, could I be left here without you, alone? The old horseman Peleus sent me out with you on the day when he sent you from Phthia to join Agamemnon – you were a child, with no knowledge yet of levelling war or of debate, where men win distinction. So he sent me out to teach you all these things, to make you a speaker of words and a doer of deeds.'

Homer, *Iliad*, 9. 410–440 (with omissions)

'However, your heart has prompted you to ask about my troubles, and that intensified my grief. Well, where shall I begin, where end, my tale? For the list of woes which the gods in heaven have sent me is a long one. I shall start by giving you my name: I wish you all to know it so that in times to come, if I escape the evil day, I may always be your friend, though my home is far from here.

'I am Odysseus, Laertes' son. The whole world talks of my stratagems, and my fame has reached the heavens. My home is under the clear skies of Ithaca ... It is a rough land, but nurtures fine men. And I, for one, know of no sweeter sight for a man's eyes than his own country.'

Homer, *Odyssey*, 9. 12–29 (with omissions)

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