

Revising AS Classical Civilisation

The AS Classical Civilisation exam consists of the following **two papers**:

- Homer's *Odyssey* and Society 1 hour 30 mins 50% of the final AS mark
- Greek Tragedy in its Context 1 hour 30 mins 50% of the final AS mark

SET TEXTS FOR THE ODYSSEY PAPER

- The *Odyssey* as a whole needs to be read
- Passages for comment will be chosen from books 4-12 and 18-22

SET TEXTS FOR THE GREEK TRAGEDY PAPER

- Aeschylus *Agamemnon*
- Sophocles *Ajax*
- Euripides *Medea* and *Trojan Women*

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE?

- Be organised, and sort out your revision materials **now**. If you need further copies of translations and notes, ask us in the Classics Department Room.
- Read your texts and notes very carefully. Remember, though, that your notes may not have all the 'right answers' on the passage that comes up in the exam. You will need to give a detailed response to some aspect of it, but applying sound principles of literary criticism is as important as making the 'correct points'.
- Revise the set text material gradually over a period of time. Start early to avoid the need to have a 'set text weekend' just before the exams.
- Practise answering context questions under timed conditions.

CHOOSING QUESTIONS IN THE EXAM

- You will be given two context questions and three essay questions. You must choose **one** context question and **one** essay question.
- Don't choose a context question simply because you like the look of the set passage. Make sure that you like the questions as well.
- Choose the essay title which will allow you to use your knowledge of the relevant texts confidently. An essay title may look easy, but if you cannot illustrate your points from a range of sources, your answer will be thin.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN THE EXAM

- The **context question** has three sub-questions, worth 10, 20 and 25 marks respectively.
- In Question (a) all 10 marks are awarded for knowledge and understanding. In Question (b) 10 marks are awarded for knowledge and understanding and 10 marks for analysis, evaluation and presentation. In Question (c) 10 marks are awarded for knowledge and understanding and 15 marks for analysis, evaluation and presentation.
- In the Roman Society paper Question (a) is historical. In the Greek Tragedy paper it is contextual. It is important to give accurate information in your answers.
- In both papers Question (b) is an analysis of the set passage. Make sure your points cover the entire passage: do not write a lot on one half while saying very little about the other half.
- In both papers Question (c) requires you to look beyond the set passage to other passages or texts you have read. Accurate recall is required.
- The **essay question** is worth 45 marks. 20 marks are awarded for knowledge and understanding, and 25 marks for analysis, evaluation and presentation. You will be given a number of points you are advised to consider in structuring your answer. Follow this advice carefully, making sure that you cover all the points.