



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

**CLASSICAL STUDIES**

**9274/42**

Paper 4 Greek Literature

**October/November 2022**

**1 hour 30 minutes**



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:  
Answer questions from **one** section only.  
For each section, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- 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.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

### Section A: Greek Tragedy

Answer **Question 1** and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 1 Read the passage and answer the question.

MEDEA: I accept my place; but this blow that has fallen on me  
Was not to be expected. It has crushed my heart.  
Life has no pleasure left, dear friends, I want to die.  
Jason was my whole life; he knows that well. Now he  
Has proved himself the most contemptible of men. 5

Surely, of all creatures that have life and will, we women  
Are the most wretched. When, for an extravagant sum,  
We have bought a husband, we must then accept him as  
Possessor of our body. This is to aggravate  
Wrong with worse wrong. Then the great question: will the man 10  
We get be bad or good? For women, divorce is not  
Respectable, to repel the man, not possible.

Still more, a foreign woman, coming among new laws,  
New customs, needs the skill of magic, to find out  
What her home could not teach her, how to treat the man 15  
Whose bed she shares. And if in this exacting toil  
We are successful, and our husband does not struggle  
Under the marriage yoke, our life is enviable.

(Euripides, *Medea* 223–243)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss whether Medea's actions make it impossible to sympathise with her. [20]

#### EITHER

- 2 'Characters in tragedy seek revenge rather than justice.'  
To what extent do you agree with this description of the tragedies that you have read? In your answer you should refer to **at least two** plays. [30]

#### OR

- 3 'The only purpose of Greek tragedy was to entertain an ancient audience.'  
How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should refer to **at least two** plays. [30]

## Section B: Homeric Epic

Answer **Question 4** and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

- 4 Read the passage and answer the question.

'We have had plenty of travel-weary strangers here before, but not one that I have seen has reminded me so strongly of Odysseus – your looks and your voice and your very feet – as you.' 'Old woman,' said the quick-witted Odysseus, 'that is what everyone says who has set eyes on us both, that we are remarkably alike, as you yourself so shrewdly observe.' The old woman fetched the gleaming basin which she always used for washing the feet of guests, poured in plenty of cold water and added warm. Odysseus was sitting by the fire, but now he swung abruptly round to face the dark, for it had struck him suddenly that in touching him she might notice a certain scar he had, and his secret would be out. Eurycleia then came up to her master and began to wash him. At once she recognised the scar, the one Odysseus had received years before from the white tusk of a boar when on a visit to Autolycus and his sons. 5 10

(Homer, *Odyssey* 19. 379–396)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss to what extent the use of disguise is important in the *Odyssey*. [20]

## EITHER

- 5 'Goddesses help and gods hinder.'  
To what extent do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should discuss **both** the *Iliad* **and** the *Odyssey*. [30]

## OR

- 6 'Homeric heroes are always selfish.'  
How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should discuss **both** the *Iliad* **and** the *Odyssey*. [30]

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