

# The Homeric World

## Exam Questions

There are five types of questions that can be found in *The Homeric World* paper, and will be found in both Section A and B:

- 1 Knowledge and Understanding Questions
- 2 Significance Questions
- 3 Stimulus Questions
- 4 Detailed-Response Questions
- 5 Extended Response Questions

# The Examination

This component of the GCSE examination is designed to test your knowledge, understanding, and evaluation and analysis of the Homeric world. The examination is worth 90 marks and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes, and represents 50% of the total marks for the GCSE.

There are two sections to the paper:

- **The Culture Section: The Mycenaean Age**
- **The Literature Section: The Odyssey**

Each section is worth 45 marks and therefore represents 25% of your GCSE. The paper will consist of both short-answer and extended-response questions.

There are five types of questions that will feature in your exam. Each type will appear in *both* the culture and literature sections. With the exception of the extended-response questions, each will be linked to a source that will either be a picture of a site or an object from the Mycenaean Age or a passage from the Odyssey.

Below are the five types of questions that will feature in your exam, and what they are worth in terms of marks. They can generally be divided into two categories: the first three types are all short-answer questions; the final two types require a longer answer.

Category	Question Types	Marks
Short Answer	Knowledge and Understanding	22
	Significance	
	Stimulus	
Long Answer	Detailed-Response	8
	Extended-Response	15

The final two questions will usually be the final questions of each section. The short answer questions can come in any order. For example there could be a two-mark knowledge and understanding question, followed by a four-mark stimulus question, followed by a three-mark significance question.

This guide attempts to demonstrate to you the different types of questions you will come across, an explanation of how they work, models answers, and tips for doing well.

## Shorter Answers:

There are three types of question that are considered shorter answers. They are:

- Knowledge and understanding questions;
- Significance questions;
- Stimulus questions.

There will be 22 marks worth of marks for shorter questions. Knowledge and understanding questions in each section of the exam. The 22 marks will be broken down into a series of short-answers, typically worth 1 mark or 2 marks, but on occasions 3 or even 4 marks.

There will be a source that accompanies any of these types of questions. For the culture section, it could be a prescribed source you have studied (for example, the Lion Hunt Dagger), or it could be one that you have not seen before. For the literature section it will be an extract from Homer's *The Odyssey* (for example, an extract from Polyphemus' cave). All the extracts from Homer's *The Odyssey* will be from Books 9, 10, 19, 21, 22.

Please note that in the literature section there will be two versions of the same passage: one from a translation by E. V. Rieu, and another by translation by A. S. Kline. Below is an example of how it is presented in the 2023 paper:

Source G:

~~"They were quick to be convinced by my suggestion. Only Eurylochus was against me and did his best to keep the whole company back. "Where are we poor wretches off to now?" he cried with winged words. "Why are you looking for trouble – going to Circe's palace, where she will turn you all into pigs or wolves or lions, and force you to keep watch over that great house of hers? We have had all this before, with the Cyclops, when our friends found their way into his fold with this fool-hardy Odysseus. It was this man's reckless folly that cost *them* their lives."~~

~~'Now when Eurylochus said that, I considered drawing the long sword from my sturdy side and lopping his head off to roll in the dust, even though he was a close kinsman of mine. But my men held me back and calmed me down.'~~

~~"'Favourite of Zeus,' they said, 'let's leave this man here to guard the ship, if that is your order. But you lead us to Circe's enchanted castle.'"~~

Odyssey 10: 422–445 (Trans: E.V. Rieu)

They quickly responded to my words. Only Eurylochus of all my friends hung back. And he spoke to them with winged words: 'Wretched fools, where are you off to? Are you so in love with trouble you'll visit Circe's house, she who will change you all to pigs, or wolves, or lions to guard her great hall under duress? Remember how Cyclops too behaved, when our friends entered his cave with reckless Odysseus, this man through whose foolishness they died.'

Those were his words, and I felt like drawing the long sword strapped to my sturdy thigh and striking his head to the ground, though he was a kinsman of mine by marriage, but my friends each checked me with soothing words: 'Scion of Zeus, let's leave him behind, if you will, to stay and guard the ship, while you lead us to Circe's sacred house.'

Odyssey 10: 422–445 (Trans: A.S. Kline)

We have been studying A. S. Kline's translation of *The Odyssey*, so use that passage from each source. It may well be worth drawing a line through the passage you are not using, as in the example above.

Over the next few pages are some examples of the shorter type of questions to be found in each section, and how to answer them.

## Source A: A Mycenaean painting of a chariot and two men



### Study Source A:

1 What is the name given to this type of painting?

Fresco

(1)

2(a) Apart from one of the men being a charioteer, what sort of people are the two men in the painting?

Soldiers

(1)

2(b) How can you tell this?

They are wearing a similar uniform; they are wearing boar-tusk helmets; the man at the back is holding a spear.

(1)

3 Choose any two colours in the painting and state from what source the Mycenaean obtained these colours.

Blue from copper compound; yellow from ochre; white from lime; black from carbon

(2)

4 Describe one way in which the chariot in this picture is different from other Mycenaean chariots.

This chariot is a dual chariot in its design, but other chariots are box chariots.

This chariot is covered in fabric, but many other chariots were not covered at all.

(2)

**5** Describe how travel over land could be difficult or dangerous in Mycenaean times. Make **two** points.

- It would have been difficult as chariots did not have suspension which meant that the journey would have been very uncomfortable.

- There were no proper roads in Mycenaean times, only tracks, which meant that the flimsy chariots were likely to break up on the rutted and unusable roads.

**(4)**

**6** State **two** other sources of evidence, apart from what is shown in Source A, that we have for what Mycenaean chariots look like.

- There is a number of signet rings that depict hunters on chariots.

- A number of Linear B tablets reference chariots to be bought.

**(2)**

**The above questions (1 to 6) show a typical set up for a series of questions on the Homeric World exam paper.**

**The questions are prompted by a source – in this case, a the source is a fresco of soldiers on a chariot – and then followed by a series of questions that use chariots and frescoes as its main focus.**

**The questions change slightly in question 4 and change into a stimulus style question where they have linked to another topic – in this case, trade. This branching off into topics is common practice on this exam paper.**

**Notice on all of them though, that the answers to all questions are short, concise and to the point. Don't spend too long writing too much for these answers. Questions 4 and 5 do require full sentences, but the others don't really.**

**The paper then moved to a look at another source.**

## Source B: A piece of Mycenaean metalwork



### Study Source B:

7 What is the name given to this type of vessel?

Rhyton

(1)

8 Where in Mycenae was this item found?

Grave Circle A

(1)

9 How does this item show the skill of the Mycenaeans in creating metal objects? Make **two** points.

- The Rhyton is a good example of **repousse technique** where the face and eyes have been created by hammering the metal from the inside.

- The Rhyton is also a good example of the **granulation technique** used in metalwork by the Mycenaeans. It is where molten metal is dripped onto the metal to create a speckled effect around the nose.

(4)

**10(a)** State **two** details about how the item in **Source B** was designed to be used.

- The item was used for pouring wine from so wine would have been poured in  
at the top.
- The wine would then flow down the through the Rhyton and exit out of the  
Nose/mouth area.

**(2)**

**10(b)** Suggest **one** reason why it is unlikely that this item was used for drinking from.

The Rhyton is too big to hold properly and pour liquid from. It is also  
impossible to control the flow of the liquid and it is likely to exit too fast.

**(1)**

**As you can see the style of the questions are very similar to those linked to source A. In this series of questions, they are testing your knowledge of Mycenaean jewellery and metalwork.**

**Question 9 is one to take careful note of. It is very similar in style to question 4 on the previous set of questions and will be similar in style to those that turn up in the Odyssey section of the paper. The questions are all worth 4 marks and you have to make two points. If the question is worth 4 marks and you have to make two points, then each point is worth 2 marks.**

**Therefore, they require you to identify a point and then add further detail/explanation to it. For question 9, the identified points are in green and would each get one mark and the information accompanying them would then each get a mark.**

**Notice all answers are once again short, sharp and to the point. Don't overwrite your answers in this section.**

**Equally, the same advice would be given for The Odyssey section of the exam. Let's have a look at how those questions appear as they are similar in style to the first part of the exam on Mycenae.**

**Source D:**

**Source D:**

'For nine days I was chased by those accursed winds across the teeming seas. But on the tenth we reached the country of the Lotus-eaters, a race that eat the flowery lotus fruit. We disembarked to draw water, and my crews quickly had a meal by the ships. When we had eaten and drunk, I sent some of my followers inland to find out what sort of human beings might be there, detailing two men for the duty with a third as herald. Off they went, and it was not long before they came upon the Lotus-eaters. Now these natives had no intention of killing my comrades; what they did was to give them some lotus to taste.'

*Odyssey 9: 82–93 (Trans: E.V. Rieu)*

'For nine days I was driven by fierce winds over the teeming sea: but on the tenth we set foot on the shores of the Lotus-eaters, who eat its flowery food. On land we drew water, and my friends ate by the ships. Once we had tasted food and drink, I sent some of the men inland to discover what kind of human beings lived there: selecting two and sending a third as herald. They left at once and came upon the Lotus-eaters, who had no thought of killing my comrades, but gave them lotus to eat.'

*Odyssey 9: 82–93 (Trans: A.S. Kline)*

**Study Source D:**

**14**

Suggest **two** ways that Odysseus might be regarded as a good leader in this passage. Justify your answer.

- *Odysseus could be considered a good leader as he manages to guide his ship across the sea to safety despite the storm they were in. This makes him a quality sailor that even after 9 days manages to find his crew safety.*
- *Odysseus is also a good leader as he comes up with a plan to explore the island. importantly, he does not send the whole crew out but just three as a search party with one of them as a herald to send back messages.*

**15)**

After eating the lotus fruit, Odysseus' men lose the desire to return home. What is the name Greeks give to this desire?

**Nostos**

**(4)**

**(1)**

**16(a)** Describe **two** things that Odysseus did before he sailed away when he realised the effect that eating lotus had.

- Odysseus dragged the men who ate the lotus fruit back to the ships.

- Odysseus bound them and placed them under the benches for their own protection.

**(2)**

**16 (b)** Suggest **one** thing that this shows about him.

He is very strong; he is loyal to his men; he is clever to think to put them below deck until the lotus fruit wore off.

**(1)**

**As you can see the style of the questions are very similar in style to those seen on the Mycenaean Age section.**

**They consist of a 4 mark question (question 14) where two points need to be made, and the marks are awarded for identifying a point and then a further mark is awarded as it contains further detail/explanation.**

**Question 16a is very similar in style to one on the Mycenaean section where two marks are awarded for describing something.**

**In all of these, the answers to the questions are short, sharp and to the point. There is no need for lengthy answers with long paragraphs. Keep the answers focused and don't answer in full sentences unless it feels absolutely necessary which it will on occasion.**

**The next few questions show a very similar pattern of how the questions are structured.**

**However, be aware, it has been known that one question on the paper could be worth 6 marks rather than 4. If that is the case, you simply have to make three points, not two, with each point being worth two marks when also explained.**

## Source E:

### Source E:

'At this my proud heart was convinced. I went to the ship and the sea-shore. I found my good companions by the ship, lamenting pitifully, with the tears streaming down their cheeks. But as soon as they caught sight of me they were all round me in a weeping throng. It was like the scene at a farm when cows in a drove come home full-fed from the pastures to the yard and are welcomed by all their frisking calves, who burst out from the pens to gambol round their mothers, lowing excitedly. My men were as deeply moved as if they had reached their homeland and were standing in their own town in rugged Ithaca, where they were born and bred.'

Odyssey 10: 407–417 (Trans: E.V. Rieu)

'To this my proud heart consented, and I went down to the swift ship and the shore, and there by the speedy vessel I found my faithful comrades, lamenting and shedding tears. Like calves in a farmyard that frisk around the herd of cows that return from grazing, free from their pens and gambolling together, lowing constantly round their mothers, so those men, at the sight of me, crowded round weeping, and in their hearts they felt as though they were home again in rugged Ithaca, in the town where they were born and bred.'

Odyssey 10: 407–417 (Trans: A.S. Kline)

## Study Source E:

**17(a)** 'At this my proud heart was convinced' (Rieu line 1) / 'To this my proud heart consented' (Kline line 1) What had Circe asked Odysseus to do? Make **two** points.

- Circe had asked Odysseus to return to his ships and bring the ship onto

land.

- Circe had asked Odysseus to bring the remaining crew back to her home so they could experience her xenia.

**(2)**

## Source F:

### Source F:

'Perhaps the women in a foreign land have mocked my master when he called at some great house, just as you, sir, have been mocked by all these bitches here. It was to avoid their insults and sneers that you refused to let them wash your feet. Well, my wise Penelope, daughter of Icarius, has given me the task, and I am most willing. I will bathe your feet, both for Penelope's sake and for your own, since your unhappiness has touched my heart. But hear me out: there's something else I want to say. 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.

*Odyssey 19: 370–391 (Trans: E.V. Rieu)*

'Perhaps the women of some great house mocked at him in a far-off foreign land, just as these shameless hussies here mock you, sir. You will not let them wash your feet, for fear of their insults, but wise Penelope, Icarius' daughter, knowing my willingness, has asked me to wash them. So I shall wash your feet for Penelope's sake and yours, while my heart is stirred with sadness. But listen to one thing I must say. Many a long-suffering traveller have we welcomed here, but never a man resembling another as you resemble Odysseus in looks and voice – even your feet.'

Then resourceful Odysseus answered her, saying: 'That is what everyone says who has met us both, old woman, that we are very alike, as you remark.'

With this, the old woman, preparing to wash his feet, poured cold water into the shining basin then added hot. Odysseus swiftly sat down by the hearth, and turned towards the shadows, though he had a sudden premonition that as she handled him she would notice his scar and the truth would be out.

*Odyssey 19: 370–391 (Trans: A.S. Kline)*

## Study Source F:

**19** Why is the epithet 'quick-witted' (Rieu line 8) / 'resourceful' (Kline line 7) appropriate here?

*It is appropriate as Odysseus comes up with an explanation to her*

*question on the spot; he is able to lie very quickly and very convincingly.*

**(1)**

**20** What animal had caused the injury to Odysseus?

*A wild boar.*

**(1)**

**21** What impression do you get of Eurycleia from this passage? Make **two** points.

- We get the impression she is perceptive as she realises the stranger looks like Odysseus.

We get the impression that she is knowledgeable and has a good memory as she has not seen Odysseus for twenty years.

- We get the impression she is respectful as she refers to Penelope, her master, as 'wise'.

We get the impression she is loyal to Odysseus and Penelope as she is quick to condemn some of the other disloyal maids.

**(4)**

**22** How does Homer make the final **two** paragraphs dramatic? Make **one** point.

The scene is full of tension and this makes it dramatic. At various points in the passage Eurycleia comes close to recognising Odysseus and nearly blowing his disguise. In this moment, the tension is further increased as Odysseus turns away from her at the last moment.

**(2)**

**23** How did Eurycleia later react to recognising Odysseus? Make **two** points.

- Once Eurycleia realises that it is actually Odysseus she drops his foot in shock and his foot hits the bronze bowl echoing through the hall.

Her eyes are filled with tears that Odysseus has returned and will now do something to protect them all against the suitors.

- Her initial reaction is to share her news with Penelope but after Odysseus threatens her she maintains her composure and promises not to tell others.

To show her loyalty to Odysseus she promises to reveal the names of all the disloyal maids to help Odysseus.

**(4)**

## Detailed Response Questions:

You will get one of these questions in both Section A and B, with one or more sources linked to the question to help prompt your answer. The question will always be worth 8 marks and the marks are evenly awarded; 4 for knowledge and understanding and 4 for analysis, interpretation or evaluation.

To be successful in this question, you must make sure your answer covers a number of elements:

1. Your conclusion should be at the beginning of the answer;
2. You must reference the sources in your answer;
3. You must include your own knowledge in your answer;
4. You may have to offer a balanced answer if the question suggests this.

Whilst these questions are always worth 8 marks and the marks evenly weighted between knowledge and analysis, they are not marked on a basis of one mark for a correct opinion or a piece of evidence used, as the examiner will mark it as a whole. An examiner will read the whole answer before distributing marks. Therefore, it is vital that you include all elements for a successful answer and that what you write is accurate and concise.

Whilst the answer is expected to be a longer answer, it is not an essay. You are not expected to write pages on this answer, but you are expected to give a more in-depth answer.

Let's review the criteria for a successful answer and what each aspect requires:

1. Your conclusion should be at the beginning of the answer:
  - Write a one/two sentence conclusion at the beginning of the answer that answers the question succinctly. You are showing the examiner you understand the question overall.
2. You must reference the sources in your answer:
  - This is vital. You must reference the sources by either quoting them or paraphrasing them in your answer. A good idea is to use it as a starting point in your answer.
3. You must include your own knowledge in your answer:
  - Once you have used the sources, you must supplement your answer with your own knowledge. This knowledge should be used to support your argument/answer, not just be a list of facts on the topic.
4. You may have to offer a balanced answer if the question suggests this:
  - The vast majority of 8 mark questions require you to give a balanced answer in which you have to state how far you agree with a statement or not. The question has been set up to give two sides.

# Example Questions and Answers:

## Study Source C



## Study Source C

- 11** 'The city of Tiryns was perfectly designed to survive and be prosperous.'  
How far do you agree with this statement? Use Source C your own knowledge to answer the question.

To a large extent, the city of Tiryns was designed to survive and be prosperous as it was a coastal city that encouraged trade and it had been designed with defence in mind.

Tiryns was designed with defence at the heart of its creation. Source C shows the situation of the city and how it is built on a low hill which makes it harder to attack. The cyclopean walls are built around the whole city and stand up to 10 metres at their peak. This makes it almost impossible for attackers to get into the city, and makes it easier to defend. This is further enhanced with the cyclopean ramp that winds around the city and is some 47m in length and is the only way to access the main gate. The main gate has also been designed for survival with a series of gated areas which were known as killing zones. Tiryns was also designed for a siege with the galleries used to store supplies in the event of a war. All in all, Tiryns would have been hard to attack.

It was also designed to be incredibly prosperous. It was a coastal city which allowed trade to develop over time. The location of the city meant traders from all over the Mediterranean and Aegean would have allowed the people of Tiryns to develop long-term sea trade routes.

**The answer clearly demonstrates a very good understanding of the question, source material, and presents a clear and balanced argument – that it was built for survival and to be prosperous. Let's analyse why each section is so good:**

To a large extent, the city of Tiryns was designed to survive and be prosperous as it was a coastal city that encouraged trade and it had been designed with defence in mind.

**The opening paragraph is a conclusion. It addresses the question by using words from the question, it is balanced, and there is a clear argument presented as well as some details 'hinted' at.**

**The next paragraph addresses one side of the argument, and importantly, it uses the source to build on the 'survive' aspect of the argument. As it is a picture, the source just needs to be referred to.**

Tiryns was designed with defence at the heart of its creation. **Source C shows the** situation of the city and how it is built on a low hill which makes it harder to attack. The cyclopean walls are built around the whole city and stand up to 10 metres at their peak. This makes it almost impossible for attackers to get into the city, and makes it easier to defend. This is further enhanced with the cyclopean ramp that winds around the city and is some 47m in length and is the only way to access the main gate. The main gate has also been designed for survival with a series of gated areas which were known as killing zones. Tiryns was also designed for a siege with the galleries used to store supplies in the event of a war. All in all, Tiryns would have been hard to attack.

**This is a well put together paragraph that uses details within the visual source throughout. These are highlighted in the above paragraph in purple. As it is a visual source, the candidate need only show that they are using the source by referring to examples from it as it is almost impossible to quote it directly. However, to make it really obvious, they have referenced 'Source C' at the beginning of a line.**

**The final paragraph now offers up the other aspect the question focuses on which is Tiryns was built to be prosperous. The first line makes this very obvious.**

It was also designed to be incredibly prosperous. **It was a coastal city which allowed trade to develop over time. The location of the city meant traders from all over the Mediterranean and Aegean would have allowed the people of Tiryns to develop long-term sea trade routes.**

**The answer is short, concise but shows tremendous knowledge, understanding and an excellent use of the sources, particularly the visual ones. It is about quality of writing, not quantity here.**

# Example Questions and Answers:

## Study Source E

'To this my proud heart consented, and I went down to the swift ship and the shore, and there by the speedy vessel I found my faithful comrades, lamenting and shedding tears. Like calves in a farmyard that frisk around the herd of cows that return from grazing, free from their pens and gambolling together, lowing constantly round their mothers, so those men, at the sight of me, crowded round weeping, and in their hearts they felt as though they were home again in rugged Ithaca, in the town where they were born and bred.'

*Odyssey* 10: 407–417 (Trans: A.S. Kline)

## Study Source E

**18** How do similes add to the appreciation and enjoyment of the *Odyssey*?

Use Source E your own knowledge of other similes in your answer.

To a large extent the use of similes by Homer in the *Odyssey* very much adds to our appreciation and enjoyment of it as it adds intensity to the scenes that otherwise might not be there.

The simile in Source E is an excellent example of an extended simile used by Homer to add intensity to the descriptions and therefore bring the scene more to life for the reader. In this simile he compares the reaction of the crew to a returning Odysseus from Circe's palace to young "calves" that are "gambolling" around their mother. It is an attempt to show how overjoyed they were to see Odysseus by acting so carefree and happy, as well as demonstrating their relationship to Odysseus. The simile adds greater resonance as it a simile using animals linking nicely to what has happened to the other crew at Circe's palace when they were turned into pigs – the animal theme running through the whole book.

Another good example of a simile that adds intensity to a scene is in Book 9 when Polyphemus attacks two of Odysseus' crew in his cave. Homer describes the crew as 'like whelps' emphasising their helplessness as they are skilled by Polyphemus. The simile is good as he compares the crew to puppies emphasising not only the inability to do anything, but also emphasising Polyphemus' great strength.

**(8)**

One final example of a simile used to great effect is in the final scenes of Book 22 when Odysseus and Telemachus attack the Suitors who are running scared from them. Homer compares them to 'vultures from the mountains' showing how they are predators attacking prey. The use of birds as the simile gives a real indication of how the two men moved in the great hall, almost swooping over their victims adding real intensity to the scene.

**The answer clearly demonstrates a very good understanding of the question, source material, and presents a clear and balanced argument. Let's analyse why each section is to good:**

To a large extent the use of similes by Homer in the Odyssey very much adds to our appreciation and enjoyment of it as it adds intensity to the scenes that otherwise might not be there.

**The opening paragraph is a conclusion. It addresses the question by using words from the question, and provides an answer.**

**The next paragraph addresses one side of the answer, and importantly, that is that the simile in Source E is a good one and why.**

The simile in **Source E** is an excellent example of an extended simile used by Homer to add intensity to the descriptions and therefore bring the scene more to life for the reader. In this simile he compares the reaction of the crew to a returning Odysseus from Circe's palace to young "calves" that are "gambolling" around their mother. It is an attempt to show how overjoyed they were to see Odysseus by acting so carefree and happy, as well as demonstrating their relationship to Odysseus. The simile adds greater resonance as it a simile using animals linking nicely to what has happened to the other crew at Circe's palace when they were turned into pigs - the animal theme running through the whole book.

**This is a well put together paragraph that uses the source throughout it. These are highlighted in the above paragraph in purple. As it is a written source, it is easy to reference by quoting. Notice how the answer does not use long quotations but short sections or words to support the answer.**

**The next paragraphs now offers up the other aspect of the answer which is to analyse other similes found in the Odyssey. At the very least, one more simile should be analysed, preferably two.**

Another good example of a simile that adds intensity to a scene is in Book 9 when Polyphemus attacks two of Odysseus' crew in his cave. Homer describes the crew as 'like whelps' emphasising their helplessness as they are skilled by Polyphemus. The simile is good as he compares the crew to puppies emphasising not only the inability to do anything, but also emphasising Polyphemus' great strength.

One final example of a simile used to great effect is in the final scenes of Book 22 when Odysseus and Telemachus attack the Suitors who are running scared from them. Homer compares them to 'vultures from the mountains' showing how they are predators attacking prey. The use of birds as the simile gives a real indication of how the two men moved in the great hall, almost swooping over their victims adding real intensity to the scene.

## **Detailed Response Questions:**

**You will *two* of these extended response questions on the Homeric World paper, and they are worth 15 marks each, and 30 marks overall (one-third of the whole paper). This type of question is different from the other questions in two respects:**

- **There is no direct source(s) attached to this question specifically.**
- **There will be a choice of two questions, of which you must answer one.**

**Whilst these questions are always worth 15 marks, similar to the 8 mark questions, they are not marked on a basis of one mark for a correct opinion or a piece of evidence used, as the examiner will mark it as a whole.**

**An examiner will read the whole answer before distributing marks. Therefore, it is vital that you include all elements for a successful answer and that what you write is accurate and concise. The balance of marks is not even with only 5 given to factual knowledge used to support your answer, and 10 given to the argument and analysis you give. In this question, and the only one on the paper really, the examiner wants to see your opinion and judgement.**

**To be successful in this question, you must make sure your answer covers a number of elements:**

- 1. Your conclusion should be at the beginning of the answer;**
- 2. Your facts must be relevant to the question – don't just write everything you no about the subject.**
- 3. Use evidence to support your argument by summarising things. Don't fall into the trap of telling the story of something or over-narrating examples.**
- 4. Keep referring back to the question.**
- 5. Try to offer a balanced answer.**

**The answer is expected to be a longer answer and in essay form – paragraph your points, make sure it is structured.**

**The example question has an example answer which sets out how to answer these types of question.**

From the evidence of Mycenaean cities and the items found within them, what sort of people do you think the Mycenaeans were?

### The examiner is looking for a number of things in a quality response:

- **A range of areas that give an insight into Mycenaean life from:**
  - **The design and construction of the cities;**
  - **Grave sites and their contents;**
  - **Life in Mycenaean Age through artefacts;**
  - **Metalwork and jewellery;**
  - **Linear B tablets;**
  - **Frescoes.**
- **A consistent argument as to what the question is asking about what each of these tell us about who the Mycenaeans were.**

### Example Answer 1:

To a large extent, we have a good understanding of what Mycenaeans were like from a range of evidence which includes the design and construction of the cities to the graves and how they were structured as well as the contents contained in these graves to the individual pieces of metalwork and jewellery found in Mycenae and Tiryns to the information contained in Linear B tablets. All of these add to our understanding that the Mycenaeans were skilled builders, skilled craftsmen, but also that Mycenaean life was centred around two main concepts: war and trade. The only issue is that much of what we learn about Mycenaean life is from what has been left which generally is from the rich in society which might compromise our full understanding.

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that Mycenaeans were centred around the concept of war. The cities were constructed in a way so as to be defensive. The large cyclopean walls which stand up to 10-12 metres tall enclosed a city and made it hard to attack. At places like Tiryns this was further enhanced by ramps that would surround the city to the only entrance into the city through fortified gates. Alongside other constructs such as sally ports and galleries, defence from invaders was a paramount concern. Further evidence supports this idea. **The Warrior Vase found in Mycenae demonstrates a culture of war, alongside the many boar-tusk helmets found in graves. The Linear B tablets often had references to weapons being bought and sold.**

**What is nice about the first paragraph is that it focuses on one thing we understand about the Mycenaeans which is their culture of war. This is then supported by evidence to prove this from a range of areas, each highlighted in a different colour. This shows the examiner not only the depth but breadth of your knowledge. It is quite a good tip to think of one thing we can learn and then bring evidence to it. The answer continues in a similar way.**

Another key indicator of what the Mycenaeans were like as people is just how skilled and advanced they were in the production of goods and buildings. They were highly skilled builders, building cities that were purposeful, defensive, but also beautiful. The palaces which were always situated at the highest point of a city contained a megaron that was beautifully decorated in wall frescoes depicting scenes of nature and hunting, amongst many other themes. The technique to create these was clever, but also the creation of dyes using natural materials shows real skill. Their skill is further supported by the intricate jewellery and metalworks they produced. The Gold Pyxis, the Lion Hunt Dagger, and intricate signet rings all show an ability to produce beautiful works using various techniques such as repousse and granulation.

We can also learn that Mycenaeans took death and burial seriously. The grave circle at Mycenae show a need to respect the dead and provide them with adequate graves. Indeed, the most rich and powerful would have had even more elaborately built tombs, Tholos tombs, that show how the rich and powerful would have been buried.

The items that the dead were buried with also show a society with extreme wealth, or at least some of society did. The gold face masks, the intricate jewellery and the crystal vessels also show a society that was extremely wealthy but this is the problem in examining Mycenae, we only know about the wealthy. It is their homes we study, their graves, and their items that we focus on; it is hard to ascertain what life was like for ordinary citizens in the Mycenaean period.

**The first two paragraphs on this page demonstrate a similar approach to the first paragraph in the answer. A focus is identified and then supported by evidence from various areas.**

**What is really good about this answer is the final paragraph which informs the examiner that you are able to evaluate just how much we can learn, and the difficulties in finding out about Mycenaean life from the evidence we have. By discussing these limitations, we show a greater ability to answer the question.**

### The examiner is looking for a number of things in a quality response:

- **An understanding of Roman written sources about Heracles.**
- **An understanding of Greek visual sources about Heracles.**
- **An argument about what we can learn about Heracles/Hercules from both.**
- **A consistent argument as to what the question is asking.**

Therefore, the candidate should have knowledge of the following pieces of information and then use them to construct an answer:

- **Roman Written Sources:**
  - **Ovid's *Metamorphosis* about Hercules and Nessus and the death of Hercules;**
  - **Virgil's *Aenied*, about Hercules and Cacus.**
- **Greek Visual Sources:**
  - **Metopes of Heracles' 12 labours at Temple of Zeus;**
  - **Pottery depicting Heracles' 12 labours.**

### Example Answer 1:

To a large extent, the statement is correct in that there is very little to admire about the suitors. As a collective, they are abusive to people, they show contempt for the people whose home they are given hospitality in, and they fail to adequately fight Odysseus in the battle. As individuals, they are equally poor with the two main leaders, Antinous and Eurymachus showing particularly poor characteristics.

As a collective the suitors abuse the hospitality given to them by Penelope and Telemachus. Day after day, they attend the house, drink their hosts' wine, eat their hosts' food, and sleep with their hosts' maids. This abusing of *xenia* given by Penelope and Telemachus would have been considered offensive in ancient times. This is further added to by the manner in which they treat people in the palace. They are violent and abusive to people. They laugh openly at Telemachus when he tells the suitors how they have mistreated his home. They mock the loyal maids and servants, even ridiculing Odysseus when disguised as a beggar. *These characteristics make them very unlikeable and there is certainly nothing to admire about how they treat others.*

**This first paragraph works really well as it focuses on the suitors as a collective and how their actions and opinions are unadmirable. It explains how Homer portrays them and uses examples to support this. The final sentence – in purple – connects the paragraph back to the question being asked.**

They are also very gullible as a group. They fail to realise that Penelope continues to put off the decision about which suitor she will marry, and this takes place over some years. They fail to spot or understand how Penelope has deceived them when she said she needed to complete the weaving of a shroud for Laertes which she completed by day, but by night she undid most of her work. The ease at which she deceived them shows just how unintelligent the group were and it was only found out due to the disloyal maid revealing to them what Penelope was doing. **All of these are characteristics which cannot be admired.**

**Individually, they were equally unadmirable, and this is perhaps best demonstrated with the two antagonists: Antinous and Eurymachus.** These two display wholly unadmirable qualities. Antinous is aggressive and violent; he is the bully who picks on easy targets such as the beggar and Eumaeus. And yet, his death almost demonstrates how Homer didn't want him to be anything other than unadmirable. He is given no heroic or well-fought death, just simply shot in the neck where he dies instantly, and is instantly forgotten. The other suitor, Eurymachus, is no better when he tries to shift the blame for everything that has happened in the palace onto the dead Antinous. He does this so quickly and cleverly demonstrating his slyness and cunning, and again, he dies quickly and unceremoniously.

Something that must be said about the suitors is their failure to defeat Odysseus and his men despite the sheer numbers they have in comparison. They do not work as a team, act individually, and show little battle skill, which sees them all slaughtered. This is despite their efforts to stampede out of the palace when it looks like all is lost showing real cowardice, **which is certainly an unadmirable quality.**

There is little to admire about the suitors, even when one or two try demonstrate slightly different characteristics. Leodes does not agree with the suitors in certain situations, but he fails to stand up to them or do anything about it. What he does is simply fall into the crowd and follow Antinous through either fear or misguided loyalty. Either way, neither are particular admirable traits epitomising the suitors overall.

**The rest of the answer demonstrates another example of the suitors behaving unadmirable as a collective before moving to looking at them individually and concentrating on Antinous and Eurymachus. This is a clever structural technique – start on the bigger collective before focusing on specifics. By focusing on Antinous and Eurymachus you stop the answer potentially getting too vague and you show specific knowledge about key antagonists.**

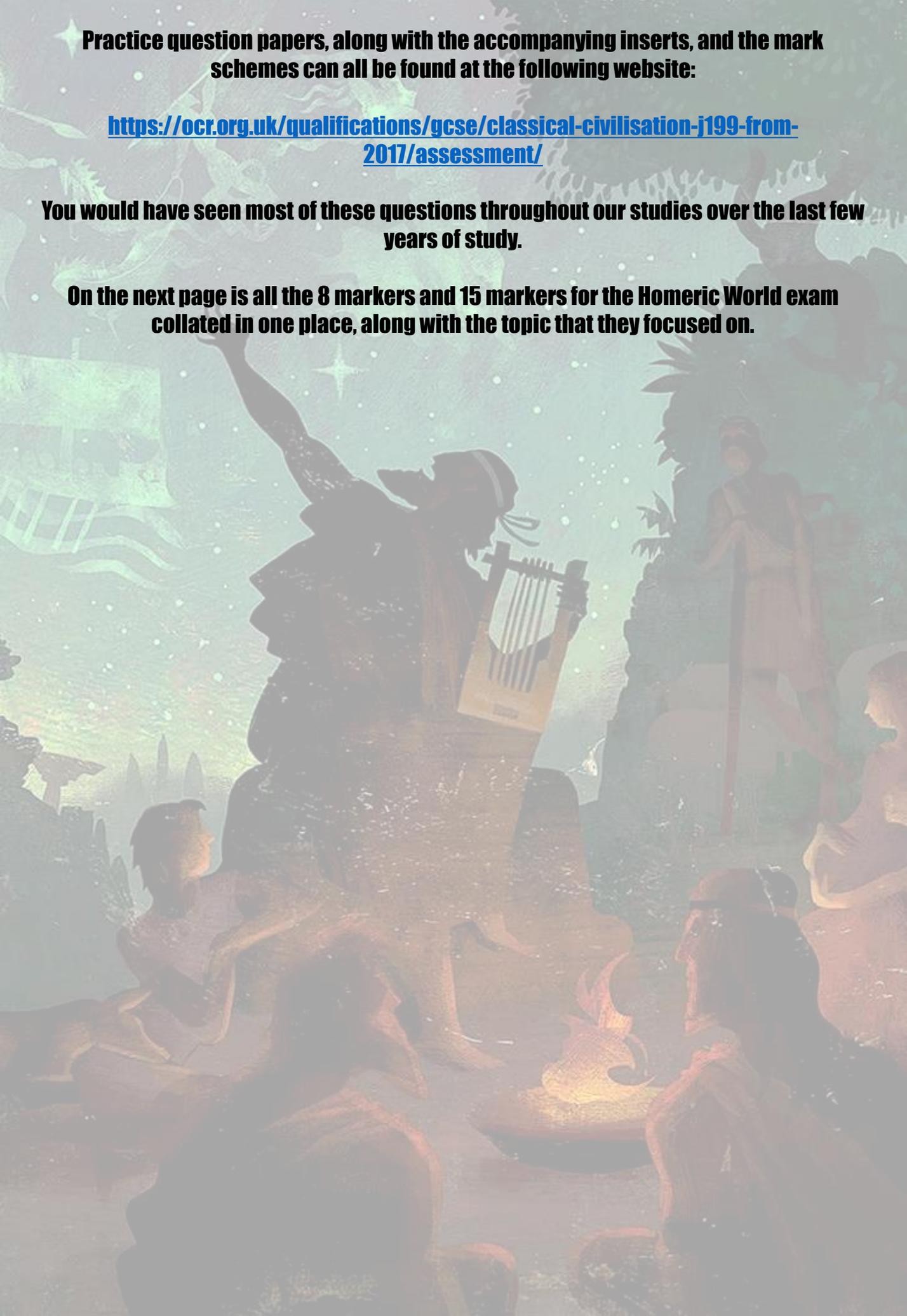
**The final paragraph explores the idea that there may be something to one or two individuals but, importantly, it still confirms how truly unadmirable the suitors are.**

★ Practice question papers, along with the accompanying inserts, and the mark schemes can all be found at the following website:

<https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017/assessment/>

**You would have seen most of these questions throughout our studies over the last few years of study.**

**On the next page is all the 8 markers and 15 markers for the Homeric World exam collated in one place, along with the topic that they focused on.**



# Classical Civilisations

## Homeric World 8 Mark and 15 Mark Question Analyses

Mycenaean Age		The Odyssey	
8 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age		8 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey	
'Masters of metalworking.' How far do you agree with this description of the way the Mycenaeans created metal objects?	Jewellery Metalwork	'Disloyal and incompetent.' How far do you agree with this assessment of Odysseus' crew?	Odysseus' Crew
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 1		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 1	
'A society where everything was focused on war.' To what extent do you agree with this description of the Mycenaean Age?	City Design Weapons and Armour Frescoes Linear B Tablets Trade	How important are Homer's story-telling techniques to our enjoyment of the Odyssey?	Key Story Moments (Cyclops, Circe, Ithaca) Writing Techniques (Flashback, Epithets, Dramatic Irony)
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 2		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 2	
'From the evidence of the cities and the structures within them, it is clear that the Mycenaeans were excellent architects and builders.' To what extent do you agree with this assessment?	City Design Key Sites and Buildings	'Everyone gets what they deserve for their actions in the Odyssey.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Odysseus Penelope/Telemachus Suitors Others

Mycenaean Age		The Odyssey	
8 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age		8 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey	
'Level VIIa of Troy provides the best evidence that the Trojan War took place.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Troy VII Troy VI	'Telemachus behaves in a wholly admirable way in the Odyssey.' How far do you agree with this statement?	His plotting with Odysseus His killing of the maids Attempts to string the bow
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 1		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 1	
'It is clear that those who lived in Mycenaean cities had a high standard of living.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Jewellery Buildings Frescoes Trade Graves	'Odysseus' true character is revealed much more clearly during his time on Circe's island than during his time on Polyphemus' island.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Book 9 Plot Book 10 Plot Odysseus changing character
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 2		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 2	
'Honouring the dead was a vital part of Mycenaean life.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Types of Graves Funerals Stelai Death Masks	'Odysseus is able to defeat the Suitors only thanks to deceit and trickery.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Odysseus disguised as a beggar Lies to Penelope Telemachus trick Role of Athena Defeat of Suitors

Mycenaean Age		The Odyssey	
8 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age		8 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey	
'The Mycenaeans were excellent craftsmen.' How far do you agree with this assessment?	Jewellery Metalwork	How important are Odysseus' loyal slaves to the story of the Odyssey?	Euryclai Eumeus Philoetius Melanthius Represent Justice
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 1		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 1	
'We gain a clearer idea of what warfare was like from the design of Mycenaean cities than from the objects that have been found within them.' How far do you agree with this assessment?	Key Sites in Mycenae and Tiryns Frescoes Warrior Vase	'Books 9 and 10 of the Odyssey are thoroughly enjoyable for a modern reader.' How far do you agree with this assessment?	Books 9 and 10 Plots Writing Techniques Tension Magic and Monsters
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 2		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 2	
'We can gain a full understanding of Mycenaean life by studying only frescoes.' How far do you agree with this assessment?	Frescoes	'In Books 19, 21 and 22, we see Odysseus as a perfect hero.' How far do you agree with this assessment?	The plan to get the bow His control of his emotions Leadership Skills Fighting Skills Justice?

# Classical Civilisations

Homeric World 8 Mark and 15 Mark Question Analyses

Mycenaean Age		The Odyssey	
8 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age		8 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey	
'The city of Tiryns was perfectly designed to survive and be prosperous.' How far do you agree with this statement?	City of Tiryns Key Sites and Construction Trade	How do similes add to our appreciation and enjoyment of The Odyssey?	Examples of Similes and purpose
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 1		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 1	
'It is difficult to understand what life was like in Mycenaean times from studying only their burial sites and customs.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?	Types of Graves Content of Graves Frescoes Linear B Tablets Clothing Trade	How important is the custom of hospitality (xenia) to Odysseus' survival in The Odyssey? Justify your opinions.	Examples of Xenia (Ithaca, Circe, Aelous) Intelligence Olympians' help
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 2		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 2	
From the evidence of Mycenaean cities and the items found within them, what sort of people do you think the Mycenaean were?	Key Sites Jewellery/Metalwork Frescoes Pottery Graves and Contents	'There is nothing to admire in the actions and opinions of the suitors.' How far do you agree with this statement?	The actions of the Suitors, particularly Antinous and Eurymachus

Mycenaean Age		The Odyssey	
8 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age		8 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey	
What do you think were the main difficulties in doing trade in Mycenaean times? Justify your response.	Trade at Sea Trade on Land Geography Lack of Currency	Why do you think Penelope is regarded as an admirable character? Use the passage as a starting point and your own knowledge in your answer.	Penelope
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 1		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 1	
'The Linear B tablets tell us more about the lives of the Mycenaean than any other type of evidence.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Linear B Tablets Trade Religion Frescoes Metalwork Graves	'The Odyssey would be better without the gods.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Role of Gods and impact on plot
15 Mark: Section A: Mycenaean Age: Option 2		15 Mark: Section B: The Odyssey: Option 2	
'The items that the Mycenaean created were designed more to be useful rather than to look attractive.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Metalwork Jewellery Linear B Tablets Weapons	'Books 21 and 22 are a fitting climax to the Odyssey.' How far do you agree with this statement?	Tension Odysseus' Leadership Telemachus' Growth Themes of Xenia and Justice