

The Homeric World

Practice Questions Booklet

The following questions are all focused on. These are collectively known as the “shorter answer questions:.

- 1 Knowledge and Understanding Questions**
- 2 Significance Questions**
- 3 Stimulus Questions**

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.'

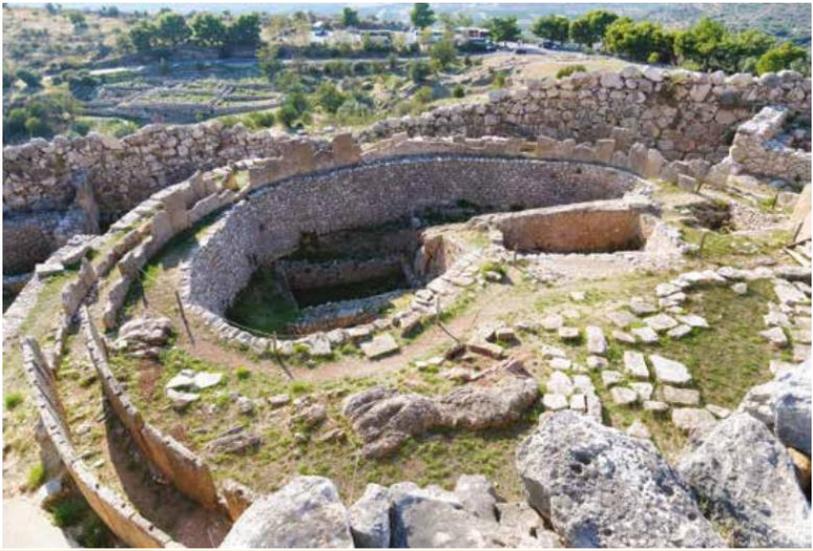
Those were his words, and I felt like drawing the long sword strapped to my sturdy thigh and striking his head to the ground, though he was a kinsman of mine by marriage, but my friends each checked me with soothing words: 'Scion of Zeus, let's leave him behind, if you will, to stay and guard the ship,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



Study Source A:

1 By what name is this burial site known?

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(1)

2 What type of graves did it contain?

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(1)

3 Explain the location of the Mycenaean graves in relation to the city walls. Make **two** points.

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(4)

Source B: The Lion gate and city walls



Study Source B:

4 Suggest three reasons why it would have been hard for an invader to approach the gate.

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(3)

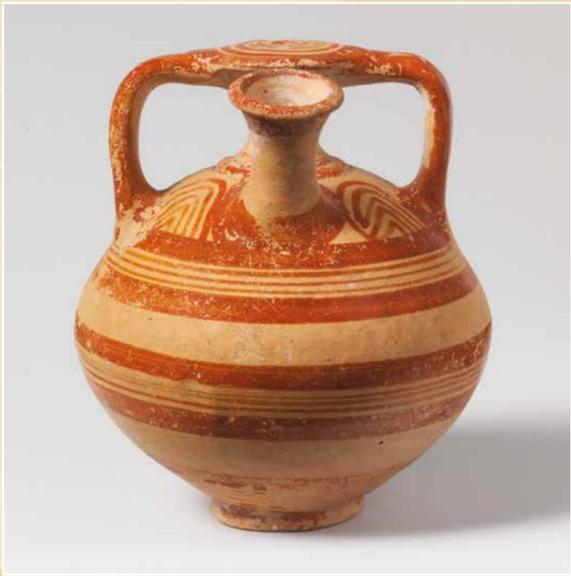
5 Explain how **two** other features of Mycenae, not shown in the picture, made it easier for the inhabitants to defend the city. Make **two** points

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(4)

Source D: A Mycenaean jar



Study Source D:

7 What is the name of this type of Mycenaean jar?

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(1)

8 Suggest what it might have originally contained.

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(1)

9(a) Identify two features of the decoration of this vessel that are typical of Mycenaean pottery.

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(2)

9(b) Suggest **one** reason why it was decorated this way.

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(1)

10 Identify **one** design feature of this vessel and suggest its purpose

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.....

(2)

11 Identify **one** design feature of this vessel and suggest its purpose

(2)

Source E:

'You have never lagged behind before, always the first to step out proudly and graze on the tender grass shoots, always first to reach the flowing river, and first to show your wish to return at evening to the fold. Today you are last of all. You must surely be grieving over your master's eye, blinded by an evil man and his wicked friends, when my wits were fuddled with wine: Nobody, I say, has not yet escaped death.'

Odyssey 9.448–455 (trans. A.S. Kline)

~~'You have never before lagged behind the others, but always step so proudly out and are the first of them to crop the lush shoots of the grass, first to make your way to the flowing stream, and first to want to return to the fold when evening falls. Yet today you are the last of all. You must be grieved for your master's eye, blinded by a wicked man and his accursed friends, when he had robbed me of my wits with wine. Nobody was his name; and I swear that he has not yet saved his skin.'~~

Odyssey 9.448–455 (trans. E.V. Rieu)

14 Explain why Odysseus chose to escape in the manner that he did. Make **two** points

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(2)

15 What happened to the ram after Odysseus and his crew had left Polyphemus' island?

(2)

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(4)**Source F:**

'So we came to the floating island of Aeolia, where Aeolus lived, son of Hippotas, dear to the deathless gods. A wall of unbroken bronze surrounds it, and the cliffs are sheer. In those halls his twelve children live as well, six daughters and six fine sons, and he has given his daughters to his sons in marriage. They are always feasting with their brave father and good mother, with endless good food set before them. All day long the house is full of savoury smells, and the courtyard echoes to the banquet's sound, while at night they sleep by the wives they love, on well-covered well-strung beds.

'We came, then, to their city with its fine palace, and Aeolus entertained me there for a month, questioning me on everything: Troy, the Argive fleet, and the Achaean return. And I told him the whole tale in order. When I asked, in turn, to depart with his help, he too denied me nothing. He gave me a leather bag, made from the flayed hide of a nine-year old ox, and imprisoned all the winds there.'

Odyssey 10.1–20 (trans. A.S. Kline)

'We next came to the floating island of Aeolia, the home of Aeolus son of Hippotas, who is a favourite of the immortal gods. All around this isle there runs an unbroken wall of bronze, and below it the cliffs rise sheer from the sea. Aeolus shares his house with his family of twelve, six daughters and six grown-up sons; and he has given his daughters to his sons in marriage. With their father and their estimable mother they are always feasting. Countless delicacies are laid before them, and all day long the house is filled with the savoury smell of roasting meat, and the courtyard echoes to the sounds of banqueting within. At night they sleep, each with his loving wife, on ornate beds, with plenty of rugs.

'To this domain of theirs and this magnificent palace we now came. For a whole month Aeolus entertained me and questioned me on everything – Troy, the Achaean navy and our return – and I told him everything, exactly as it was. When it came to my turn and I asked him whether I might now continue my journey and count on his help, he gave it willingly. He made arrangements for my journey and presented me with a leather bag, made from the flayed skin of a full-grown ox, in which he had imprisoned the boisterous energies of all the winds.'

Odyssey 10.1–20 (trans. E.V. Rieu)

17(a) Odysseus' crew believed there was gold and silver in the bag. State **two** other things that they said while Odysseus was asleep.

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- _____

(2)

17(b) Give evidence to suggest **one** way in which one of these other things was untrue

(1)

18 What impression do you get of Polyphemus from this passage? Make **two** points

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- _____

- _____

(6)

Source G:

'Eurymachus' said wise Penelope, 'no one thinks well, in any case, of men like you who ruin and dishonour a King's house, so why worry about further shame? The stranger is tall and well-built, and says he comes of good stock. Well then, hand him the gleaming bow, and let us see. Hear what I say, and I'll surely do this too: if Apollo brings him glory and he strings the bow, I'll dress him in a fine new cloak and tunic, and give him a sharp spear to keep off dogs and men, and a double-edged sword, and sandals for his feet, and help him travel wherever his heart and mind dictate.'

Odyssey 21.330–342 (trans. A.S. Kline)

~~'Eurymachus,' wise Penelope retorted, 'no men who desecrate and destroy a great man's household can anyhow have a high reputation among the people, so why would that comment bring disgrace on you? Our guest here is a very big and well-built man, who also claims to be of noble birth. So give him the bow now and let us see what happens. I promise – and these are no idle words – that if Apollo answers his prayer and he succeeds in stringing it I shall give him a fine new cloak and tunic, a sharp javelin to keep off dogs and men, and a two-edged sword, as well as sandals for his feet, and I shall see him safely to wherever he wants to go.'~~

Odyssey 21.330–342 (trans. E.V. Rieu)

Study Source G:

19

'The stranger.' (Kline line 2) / 'Our guest.' (Rieu line 3). Give one detail that this person had told Penelope about his background.

(1)

Source H:

'My child', wise Eurycleia replied, 'what are you saying? You know how strong and steady my spirit is. I will be silent as solid stone or iron. And I will say this, and do you remember. If a god delivers the noble Suitors into your hands, I will pick out the women in the palace who have been disloyal from those who are innocent.'

Odyssey 19.491–498 (trans. A.S. Kline)

~~'My child,' the sensible Eurycleia replied, 'what a thing to say! You know well enough how staunch and unyielding my spirit is. I'll keep silent as a block of stone or iron. Remember this too, that if a god delivers these fine Suitors into your hands, I will go through all the women and pick out the disloyal from the innocent.'~~

Odyssey 19.491–498 (trans. E.V. Rieu)

Study Source H:

21 (a) Eurycleia is called 'wise' (Kline line 1) / 'sensible' (Rieu line 1). What Homeric literary technique is this an example of?

(1)

21 (b) Why do you think Eurycleia is called 'wise' (Kline) / 'sensible' (Rieu) on this occasion?

(1)

22 Eurycleia calls Odysseus 'my child'. Why do you think she does this? Make **two** points.

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(2)