



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/42

Paper 4 Greek Literature

October/November 2023

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 50

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2023 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

General guidance for marking extended response and essay questions

Candidates must address the question set and reach an overall judgement, but no set answer is expected. The questions can be approached in various ways and what matters is not the conclusions reached but the quality and breadth of the argument offered by an answer.

Examiners are encouraged to constantly refresh their awareness of the question and be aware of any requirements set by the question to use sources or make reference to specific examples.

Indicative content in the question-specific mark schemes will neither be exhaustive nor prescriptive. Appropriate, supported responses which address the question should be rewarded.

Relevant accurate knowledge from outside the prescribed Sources for Study e.g. literary or historical sources not set in the Sources for Study should be rewarded as appropriate.

Guidance on using levels-based mark schemes

Marking of work should be positive, rewarding achievement where possible, but clearly differentiating across the whole range of marks, where appropriate.

The examiner should look at the work and then make a judgement about which level statement is the best fit. In practice, work does not always match one level statement precisely so a judgement may need to be made between two or more level statements.

Once a best-fit level statement has been identified, use the following guidance to decide on a specific mark:

- If the candidate's work **convincingly** meets the level statement, award the highest mark.
- If the candidate's work **adequately** meets the level statement, award the most appropriate mark in the middle of the range (where middle marks are available).
- If the candidate's work **just** meets the level statement, award the lowest mark.

20 mark source-based marking criteria

Level	AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Marks	AO2 Analysis and evaluation	Marks
Level 5	- A very good range of factual knowledge - Relevant knowledge is very detailed - Well-supported with evidence and examples where required - A very good understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	8	- Thorough analysis of evidence/issues - Thoughtful evaluation that answers the question - Very thoughtful engagement with sources/task - Very well structured response with coherent and reasoned argument.	11–12
Level 4	- A good range of factual knowledge - Relevant knowledge is detailed - Mostly supported with evidence and examples where required - A good understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	6–7	- Good analysis of evidence/issues - Good evaluation that answers the question - Thoughtful engagement with sources/task - Well-structured response with reasoned argument.	8–10
Level 3	- An adequate range of factual knowledge - Relevant knowledge is basic - Supported with some evidence and examples where required - Some understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	4–5	- Adequate analysis of evidence/issues - Adequate evaluation that answers the question - Some engagement with sources/task - A structured response with some reasoned argument.	5–7
Level 2	- A limited range of factual knowledge - Partially relevant knowledge is basic - Partially supported with evidence and examples where required - Limited understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	2–3	- Limited analysis of evidence/issues - Limited evaluation that partially answers the question - Limited engagement with sources/task - Poorly structured response with little reasoned argument.	3–4
Level 1	- A very limited range of factual knowledge - Knowledge may not be relevant - Minimal or no supporting evidence or examples - Minimal or no understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	1	- Superficial analysis of evidence/issues - Little or no evaluation that answers the question - Little or no engagement with sources/task - An unstructured response with little or no reasoned argument.	1–2
Level 0	No creditable response.	0	No creditable response.	0

30 mark essay marking criteria

Level	AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Marks	AO2 Analysis and evaluation	Marks
Level 5	- A very good range of factual knowledge - Relevant knowledge is very detailed - Well-supported with evidence and examples where required - A very good understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	11–12	- Thorough analysis of evidence/issues - Thoughtful evaluation that answers the question - Very thoughtful engagement with sources/task - Very well structured response with coherent and reasoned argument.	15–18
Level 4	- A good range of factual knowledge - Relevant knowledge is detailed - Mostly supported with evidence and examples where required - A good understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	8–10	- Good analysis of evidence/issues - Good evaluation that answers the question - Thoughtful engagement with sources/task - Well-structured response with reasoned argument.	11–14
Level 3	- An adequate range of factual knowledge - Relevant knowledge is basic - Supported with some evidence and examples where required - Some understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	5–7	- Adequate analysis of evidence/issues - Adequate evaluation that answers the question - Some engagement with sources/task - A structured response with some reasoned argument.	7–10
Level 2	- A limited range of factual knowledge - Partially relevant knowledge is basic - Partially supported with evidence and examples where required - Limited understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	3–4	- Limited analysis of evidence/issues - Limited evaluation that partially answers the question - Limited engagement with sources/task - Poorly structured response with little reasoned argument.	4–6
Level 1	- A very limited range of factual knowledge - Knowledge may not be relevant - Minimal or no supporting evidence or examples - Minimal or no understanding/awareness of context, as appropriate.	1–2	- Superficial analysis of evidence/issues - Little or no evaluation that answers the question - Little or no engagement with sources/task - An unstructured response with little or no reasoned argument.	1–3
Level 0	No creditable response.	0	No creditable response.	0

Question	Answer	Marks
1	Using this passage as a starting point, how far do you agree that the portrayal of Clytemnestra is a negative depiction of a wife and mother? Use the 20 mark source-based marking criteria. Candidates must make use of the passage but should also provide other information from their study of <i>Electra</i>. Detail from Aeschylus' <i>Agamemnon</i> should also be credited. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 8 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1. Candidates could discuss: • Clytemnestra's treatment of Electra after Agamemnon's murder according to Electra • The fact that Clytemnestra comes to see Electra at all • Clytemnestra as the wife of Aegisthus • The murder of Clytemnestra and the reactions of her children to it. AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 12 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2. Discussion and conclusions will depend on the examples chosen. Candidates should make detailed references to specific passages in the play to support their points. Electra burns with hatred for her mother for much of the play and this must colour our view of Clytemnestra as a mother. Orestes' doubts and hesitation show that her murder is not straightforward, and this has some impact on how we view Clytemnestra as a mother. At the moment of her death, she seems vulnerable. The fact that she dies at Electra's home as she comes in answer to Electra's message shows that she is not as devoid of maternal feeling as Electra has depicted. After the murder, Euripides shows that Clytemnestra appealed to her children by reminding them that she had birthed and nourished them. It is hard to argue that Clytemnestra is a positive depiction of a mother but she is not wholly lacking in maternal feeling. Some could argue that she was a positive depiction of a mother as she chose to seek revenge for Iphigenia and could use evidence from the passage to support this. As a wife, candidates could discuss Electra's depiction of Clytemnestra's behaviour as soon as Agamemnon had left for war. They could also discuss how she appears to have been a loyal wife to Aegisthus. Candidates could also explore the reactions of different audiences – a modern audience is, perhaps, more likely to have sympathy with Clytemnestra. An ancient audience was, perhaps, more likely to have seen her completely in a negative manner. Although not intended as the primary source for this question candidates could also consider Clytemnestra's depiction in Aeschylus' <i>Agamemnon</i>. Credit any valid argument that is well supported with details from the play.	20

Question	Answer	Marks
2	‘The gods do not play an important role in tragedy.’ To what extent do you agree? In your answer you should refer to <u>at least two</u> plays. Use the 30 mark essay marking criteria. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 12 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1. Candidates could look at: • The appearance of the Dioscuri in <i>Electra</i> • Aegisthus sacrifice in <i>Electra</i> • The role of the Sun-God’s chariot in <i>Medea</i> • The importance of divine ritual in <i>Antigone</i> • The importance of pleasing the gods in <i>Agamemnon</i> • References to gods by the chorus in all plays Candidates should make detailed references to at least two plays and use specific examples to support their points. AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 18 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2. Of the four plays on the syllabus gods only appear on stage in one – <i>Electra</i>. However, this does not mean that they do not have an important role in other plays. The Dioscuri are important in <i>Electra</i> to move the siblings past the murder of their mother and tie up the loose ends of the play by explaining what will happen next. In <i>Medea</i> the gods are noticeably absent – Medea herself making her escape on the chariot of the Sun-God. Some candidates may discuss how this would have made use of the <i>deus ex machina</i> perhaps raising Medea to the level of a god. <i>Antigone</i> hinges on the conflict brought about by Antigone’s desire to bury her brother and in doing so performing the divine rituals owed to the gods. In this way her loyalty to the gods is crucial to the play. It is, perhaps, in <i>Agamemnon</i> that the gods play the most important role – the sacrifice of Iphigenia is performed to appease the goddess Artemis and described in the language of a sacrifice. It is Agamemnon’s <i>hubris</i> that justifies his murder – his arrogance becomes offensive to the gods. The choral odes are rich in religious language and imagery. Some candidates may equate the lack of gods on stage with meaning that they lack importance; those with a deeper understanding of the plays should be able to discuss the different ways they influence the plot. Some candidates may be able to discuss the different playwrights’ different approaches to the gods. Some candidates may also choose to reference the fact that the tragedies were performed as part of religious festival and so the god Dionysus, at least, was of paramount importance.	30

Question	Answer	Marks
2	Discussion and conclusions will depend on the examples chosen. Candidates should make reference to at least two plays but the response does not need to focus equally on all plays discussed to gain marks. Accept any valid line of argument that is well supported with examples from the text.	

Question	Answer	Marks
3	‘Tragedy is only moving because of the status of the characters who suffer.’ How far do you agree? In your answer you should refer to <u>at least two</u> plays. Use the 30 mark essay marking criteria. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 12 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1. Candidates could choose to discuss: • Agamemnon • Medea • Jason • Creon • Antigone • Electra • Clytemnestra • Aegisthus AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 18 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2. Discussion and conclusions will depend on the examples chosen. Candidates should make reference to at least two plays but the response does not need to focus equally on all plays discussed to gain marks. High status is a characteristic shared by tragic heroes; these are the stories of kings and princesses, heroes and queens. Whether their stories are more powerful because of this is debatable. Candidates should be familiar with Aristotle’s concept of <i>peripeteia</i> (reversal of fortune). In each of the tragedies, one or more of the characters suffers a reversal of fortune so that though they may begin the play powerful and prosperous but they end powerless or dead. Candidates may explore how far the statement is true of different plays. For example, are the deaths of Agamemnon, Aegisthus and Clytemnestra (In <i>Agamemnon</i> and <i>Electra</i> respectively) any more powerful or moving because of their status? Would the loss of Jason’s fiancée and children be less affecting if he were an ordinary man rather than a hero about to marry a princess? Creon loses everything in <i>Antigone</i> – his wife, son and position. Candidates may argue that this backs up the statement most fully as his fall is so absolute. Much of the power of tragedy derives from the fact that terrible things happen even to those whose lives are so different to those of the audience. Candidates should explore the fall of a range of characters and assess to what extent they feel their status plays a role in how powerful the play is or how much the audience sympathises with the characters. Credit should be given for any reasonable line of argument that is well backed up with examples.	30

Question	Answer	Marks
4	Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how typical this portrayal is of Paris in the <i>Iliad</i>. Use the 20 mark source-based marking criteria. Candidates must make use of the passage but should also provide other information from their study of the <i>Iliad</i>. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 8 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1. In the passage: • He is cowardly running from Menelaus • He is referred to as a good looking seducer • He is an object of shame to his family • Hector refers to how he was brave enough to take a fleet and steal Helen. Elsewhere: • Just before the passage he is described as dressed in leopard skin • It is his own suggestion that he fights in single combat against the ‘best of the Greeks’ • He does duel Menelaus but is losing and has to be rescued by Aphrodite • He is returned to his bedroom and goes to bed with Helen • When Menelaus is looking for him after he disappears from the duel, Homer says that all the Trojans ‘loathed him’ • In Book 6 Hector insults him for not fighting after finding him in his bedroom • Hector also claims that Paris does not lack courage but has a tendency to give up and refuse to fight • There are also various references to Paris fighting and wounding Greeks (although these are not in the set books, candidates are expected to have read the rest of the poem.) AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 12 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2. Discussion and conclusions will depend on the examples chosen. Candidates should make detailed references to back up their points. In many ways this passage is typical of the portrayal of Paris in the <i>Iliad</i>. He is the good looking seducer rather than a warrior. This is backed up in Book 6 by Hector finding him in his bedroom rather than out fighting. However, elsewhere in the <i>Iliad</i>, Paris is shown engaging in the fighting and leading other Trojans into battle. He is not always depicted as a coward. Credit should be given for any sensible line of argument that is well backed up with examples.	20

Question	Answer	Marks
5	‘The Homeric epics are so compelling because they show both the best and worst of humanity.’ To what extent do you agree? In your answer you should discuss <u>both</u> the <i>Iliad</i> <u>and</u> the <i>Odyssey</i>. Use the 30 mark essay marking criteria. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 12 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1. There are many examples that candidates could choose to discuss: Best: • Loyalty – e.g. Patroclus to Achilles, Hector to Troy, Penelope to Odysseus • Bravery – e.g. Hector’s final fight, Odysseus in the Cyclops cave, Patroclus leading out the Myrmidons • Strength – any of the duels • Kindness – e.g. Eumaeus towards the disguised Odysseus, Achilles’ return of Hector’s body • Love – e.g. Hector and Andromache, Priam and Hector, Odysseus and Penelope, Achilles and Patroclus • Cleverness – e.g. Odysseus’ stratagems. Worst: • Selfishness – e.g. Achilles’ withdrawal from the fight • Arrogance – e.g. the actions of Achilles or Agamemnon • Brutality – e.g. Achilles’ treatment of Hector’s body, the treatment of the disloyal maids • Betrayal – e.g. the maids, Odysseus’ men in Book 10. • Disrespect – e.g. the attitude of the suitors AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 18 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2. Discussion and conclusions will depend on the examples chosen. Candidates should make reference to both epics but the response does not need to focus equally on both to gain marks. It is certainly true that Homer shows both good and bad characteristics of his characters. Some may argue that the fact that his characters are not all good or all bad is one of the reasons that his poems are still relevant in the modern world. There are examples of bravery, love, loyalty and trust to name a few. On the other side there are examples of brutality, arrogance, disrespect and selfishness. To answer the question, candidates need to explore a range of examples. Some candidates may choose to look at the good and the bad in individual characters and this approach is perfectly valid. Candidates may also choose to explore other elements that make the epics compelling. Credit any valid argument that is well-supported with examples from the text.	30

Question	Answer	Marks
6	'The <i>Odyssey</i> is only interesting because of the obstacles faced by Odysseus.' To what extent do you agree? Use the 30 mark essay marking criteria. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding – 12 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO1. Candidates could choose to discuss: • Calypso and her entrapment of Odysseus • Poseidon's wrath • The Cicones • The Lotus Eaters • The Cyclops • Circe • The Laestrygonians • Scylla and Charybdis • The Sun God's Cattle • The suitors This list is not prescriptive and any valid examples should be credited. AO2 – Analysis and evaluation – 18 marks. Marks should be awarded using the marking criteria for AO2. Discussion and conclusions will depend on the examples chosen. 'Obstacles' can be interpreted broadly and candidates are expected to discuss the difficulties that Odysseus has to overcome on his way. Candidates need to look at these encounters analytically and assess what each adds to the epic. It could be argued that they make the poem more interesting by adding elements of the fantastic. These encounters often allow Odysseus to show his heroic characteristics such as cleverness, bravery and skill. They also often create moments of tension and drama which make the poem more interesting. Candidates may also discuss other elements that make the <i>Odyssey</i> interesting, although the main focus of their answer should be 'obstacles'. There are many ways that candidates could approach this question and credit should be given for any arguments that are supported with a good level of detail from the text.	30