



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2010 HSC Classical Greek Extension Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answer may include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’, they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Prescribed Text — Homer, *Odyssey* XXI–XXIII**Question 2 (a) (i)***Sample answer:*

The old woman has just entered the hall and seen Odysseus standing amid the bodies of the slaughtered suitors. She is pleased because this marks the end of their long domination of the palace, and Odysseus' reclamation of his rightful position.

Question 2 (a) (ii)*Sample answer:*

Odysseus says in line 412 that it is not righteous to boast over slain men. He says that these slain men, that is the suitors (line 413), deserve punishment by the gods because of their own evil deeds. Their actions have contravened the conventions of hospitality (lines 414–5) and exposed their presumptuousness (line 416).

Question 2 (b) (i)*Sample answer:*

Penelope, accepting Odysseus once he has described their marriage-bed, has explained her initial reluctance due to fear of being deceived.

Question 2 (b) (ii)*Answers could include:*

- The simile in lines 233–240 begins with an image which recalls Odysseus' own experiences of shipwreck.
- The details correspond particularly closely with Odysseus' journey from Calypso's island to the land of the Phaeacians, where he stepped ashore covered in salt.
- The joy of the shipwrecked sailor reaching the shore is related to Penelope's joy as she beholds her longed for husband.
- Thus in an unexpected reversal Penelope is identified as a shipwrecked sailor and Odysseus as the welcome land.
- The reunion of Penelope and Odysseus is portrayed as the joyful conclusion of a long and difficult journey.

Question 3

Answers could include:

- As the contest with the bow is being set up, Odysseus sits in disguise in the hall, giving signals to Telemachos, biding his time. At the appropriate time he reveals his identity to Eumaeus and Philoetius, instructing them how to assist him against the suitors. The preparations he is making reveal determined patience.
- Once he has strung the bow and shot the arrow through the axes, he becomes a man of heroic action and presents himself as an agent of vengeance for the gods.
- All the same he feels some fear when he realises that the suitors have obtained some weapons, but is quick to devise a counter plan.
- He is so determined upon vengeance that he refuses to spare Leodes, but does spare the bard and the herald.
- After the suitors are dead, Odysseus is still cautious and takes measures to prevent news of the killing from spreading.
- He is patient in his approach to Penelope, allowing her time to question him in her own way. When she mentions their marriage-bed, he reacts with strong emotion, no longer patient, and describes the bed in sufficient detail to convince Penelope.
- Even after Odysseus and Penelope are happily reconciled, he continues to focus on planning the proper restoration of his authority.
- The events of Books XXI–XXIII well illustrate the resourcefulness encapsulated in the characteristic epithet πολύμητις applied to him throughout the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Section II — Non-prescribed Text

Question 4 (a) (i)

Sample answer:

Adjective

Question 4 (a) (ii)

Sample answer:

Imperative

Question 4 (a) (iii)

Sample answer:

Governed by εἵνεκα



Question 4 (a) (iv)

Sample answer:

It is important that his identity remain concealed until he is quite ready to reclaim his rightful position.