



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CLASSICAL STUDIES

9274/42

Paper 4 Greek Literature

October/November 2025

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.

AGAMEMNON: There

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If I can live by what I say, I have no fear.

(Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*)

To what extent is the depiction of Agamemnon in this passage typical of his wider portrayal in the play? [20]

EITHER

- 2 'The cause of all disaster in Greek tragedy is that family members hate each other.'
How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer, you should discuss **at least two** plays. [30]

OR

- 3 Do the opinions of the chorus and minor characters affect how positively tragic heroes are viewed?
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.

The polished doors were closed; but Athene swept through like a breath of air to the girl's bed, leant over her head and spoke to her, taking the form of the daughter of a ship's captain named Dymas, a girl of Nausicaa's own age and one of her closest friends. In the form of this girl, bright-eyed Athene said: 'Nausicaa, how did your mother come to have such a lazy daughter as you? All your shining clothes have been left lying about neglected, but you may soon be married and need beautiful clothes, not only to wear yourself but to provide for your bridegroom's party. That is how a bride gains a good reputation with people, which brings great pleasure to her father and her mother. Let us go and do some washing together the first thing in the morning. I will go with you and help, so that you can get it done as soon as possible, because you certainly won't remain unmarried long.'

(Homer, *Odyssey* 6)

Using this passage as a starting point, discuss how typical this is of the depiction of Athene in the *Odyssey*. [20]

EITHER

- 5 'Trojans are presented more sympathetically than Greeks in the *Iliad*.'
How far do you agree with this statement? In your answer, you should discuss at least **two** Greek and **two** Trojan characters from the *Iliad*. [30]

OR

- 6 'Homer's epics are still relevant because their themes are timeless.'
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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