

# Classical Studies

## Practice Questions

Year 11 & 12



# Instructions

## Individual, exam-style questions

The questions contained in this booklet match the style of questions that are typically asked in exams. This booklet is not however, a practice exam. Elevate's research with top students identified that top students do more practice questions than anyone else. They begin the process of testing their knowledge early in the year.

Therefore, we have provided exam-format questions that are sorted by topic so that you can answer them as you learn the information, rather than waiting until the very end of the year to complete exams.

## Comments, questions?

Let us know if you need any further advice by visiting [www.elevateeducation.com](http://www.elevateeducation.com). You can comment on any of our material, or head to the FAQ section and ask us a question. Also, you can find us on social media so you can stay up to date on any brand new tips we release throughout the year.

## Other information

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information expressed in this booklet, but no warranty or fitness is implied. If you'd like to provide any feedback on this booklet, let us know at [admin@elevateeducation.com](mailto:admin@elevateeducation.com).

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# Socio-Historical Context

## Oedipus Rex (6)

1. Briefly, who was Sophocles? (Origins, career)
2. Briefly, who was Pericles? (Origins, career)
3. What was Apollo the god of?
4. How did the priestess at Delphi make her prophecies?
5. What role does foreshadowing play in this text?
6. According to the play, is fate escapable?

## The Colosseum (11)

1. Which four emperors were involved with the construction of the Colosseum? Briefly describe their reigns.
2. What was the patron-client system? Describe the connection between this and the Colosseum.
3. What brought the Flavian emperors to power? Why did the Julian dynasty decline?
4. Describe the origin of gladiatorial combat. What does this method of entertainment tell us about Roman society?
5. Why were Roman emperors required to provide 'bread and circuses' for their citizens?
6. Why were amphitheatres originally built? Who built the first one and why did it become so popular?
7. Looking at contemporary accounts of gladiatorial games, what can we deduce about Ancient Rome? Quote from at least three authors and provide their names.
8. How was the weight of the structure distributed? What new technologies did the architects use to overcome their problems?

9. What was the hypogeum? What was its function?
10. What obstacles did the architects face when preparing the site of the Colosseum? What did they do to overcome them?
11. How was the Colosseum decorated? What impact would this have had on the audience?

## The Iliad (10)

1. Why was the invention of the Greek alphabet significant, especially around the time of Homer?
2. What were the roles of the Gods?
3. What were some reasons for colonisation?
4. What parts of the Mediterranean were colonised?
5. What does polis mean? Poleis?
6. What was the role of Pan-Hellenic festivals?
7. What were some features of a typical polis?
8. Why did the Greeks prefer poleis to larger communities?
9. What was the role of oracles?
10. What were the key sites of these festivals?

# Textual Analysis

## The Iliad (10)

### Book 22 Section 1

1. Why is Achilles chasing Apollo (look in the preceding book for this answer)?
2. Achilles' killing of Hector is foreshadowed through what language technique? Quote.
3. What language technique does Homer use to describe Hector's wait for Achilles?  
Quote.
4. What is Hector's motivation in waiting for Achilles instead of hiding behind the walls of Troy? How does this reflect the ideals of Homeric heroes?

### Section 2 page 546

1. What beliefs of Ancient Greeks are revealed through the gods' intervention?
2. What techniques does Homer use to make Achilles' chase of Hector seem like it has an inevitable ending with Achilles' triumph?
3. Why does Achilles refuse Hector's suggestion that they return each others' bodies undamaged to their friends and families?
4. What is Hector's reaction to Athena's disguise as Deiphobus? When does he realise, and what does this tell us about Homeric heroes?

### Section 3 – page 553

1. Why does Achilles mutilate Hector's body? Would ancient audiences have reacted any differently to modern ones? Why did Homer include this in his story?
2. What can we deduce from the reactions of Hector's family in terms of:

- a) War
- b) Family
- c) Heroes

## The Aeneid (13)

1. At the opening of Book 12, how is Turnus depicted? Quote.
2. How does Virgil suggest the dangers of passion through the scene set in Latinus' household?
3. Aeneas is portrayed by Virgil as both a statesman and a hero. How?
4. Why does Juno stop supporting Turnus? Do the gods' actions resemble those in the Iliad?
5. How does Virgil characterise Aeneas as a pious and virtuous leader?
6. How does Juturna design a break in the treaty?
7. What is the intended effect of the digressions from battle used by Virgil?
8. How does Virgil contrast the behaviour of Aeneas and Turnus at the dissolution of the treaty? How does this tie in with Virgil's ideas about the positives of self-control over passion?
9. How do the gods intervene in the battle between the Trojans and Italians?
10. In what ways does Virgil show Turnus to be a hero?
11. How does Virgil depict the fight between Aeneas and Turnus?
12. What propaganda for Augustus can be found in the conversation between Jupiter and Juno?
13. Why does Aeneas kill Turnus? What about this ending is surprising? Why did Virgil depict the act in such a way?