

June 1993

6761/3644 Classical Mythology

Time: two and a half hours

*In addition, candidates are allowed ten minutes,
before the examination begins, to read the paper.*

Answer **THREE** questions, **TWO** from Section A, and **ONE** from Section B

Section A

1. In what ways did Hesiod attempt to account for the loss of paradise? What are the moral and practical implications of his stories?
2. Which Greek divinities seem to have a special claim to be regarded as principles of order, responsible for the development of rational and civilised values? (Heracles, for the purpose of this question, is not a god). Justify your answer.
3. In what respects is Heracles a typical hero, and in what respects is he untypical, or even a kind of anti-hero?
4. From your knowledge of the myths and cults of Dionysus, can you suggest any reasons why drama was so closely associated with his festivals?
5. Do the character and careers of Artemis and Aphrodite show too many irreconcilable contradictions? Or can these apparent contradictions be reconciled in a satisfactory way?
6. What, in your opinion, do stories concerning the foundations of cities seek to do?
7. Hades might justify his realm by saying that it was 'necessary'. How necessary do you think it was? Would classical mythology be much impoverished without the existence of an underworld, and stories about it?

Section B

8. What is necessary for the creation and re-telling of myths to flourish in a society?
9. Do you think myths exist more in order to prevent social change or more to explain its occurrence?
10. Do classical myths offer much ethical guidance? Or are they more concerned with some other kind