

June 1994

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. To what extent can the myths related in the Theogony and Works and Days be made to fit into an ethos of crime and punishment at both divine and human level?
2. It seems to be characteristic of some Greek male divinities to have had a particularly traumatic birth and early childhood. How would you account for the frequency of such stories?
3. To what extent can Heracles and Prometheus be regarded as founders of human society?
4. If Dionysus offered bliss and fertility, why was intimidation and terror necessary at times in order to recruit followers?
5. "Artemis is the archetype of the sister". Comment. Is she anything more than that?
6. Do you think stories about the underworld offered much hope or ethical guidance to Greeks and Romans? Or did they have some other purpose?
7. 'Rome's foundation is wrapped up in legends'. (P. Grimal). What do you understand by this statement? Do Theban foundation legends provide any help in understanding or interpreting Roman ones?

Section B

8. How and why does the treatment of mythic themes and characters change over time?
 9. In myths featuring heroic searchers and wanderers, what are the characters involved looking for? How are they being tested? (In considering this question, you may also wish to think about how a film treats this theme).
 10. (i) Rollo May says that myth both helps us accept our childish past and prepares us for adulthood. (ii) The Greek myths feature deities and heroic humans who seem full of flaws. How can (i) and (ii) be reconciled?
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