

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF B.A.

November 1997

Classical Mythology

6761/3644

Time: two and a half hours

In addition, candidates are allowed <u>ten</u> minutes, before the examination begins, to read the paper
--

Answer THREE QUESTIONS, TWO from Section A, and ONE from Section B.

Section A

Discuss Hesiod's account of the succession of power among the gods, in which later divinities overthrow earlier ones. To what extent are the participants to be regarded as personifications of natural forces, as people with extraordinary powers, or as role models?

2. Discuss the myth of the ages in its various forms. Is it basically a lament on the decline of morality, or are other interpretations possible?
3. Stories of traumatic births and early childhood are common among Greek divinities (e.g. Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, Athena, Dionysus, Heracles). How do these stories relate to the later functions and patterns of conduct ascribed to these divinities?
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?

"Artemis is not the wilderness but the controller of the interflow between wild and civilised, and she thus helps maintain civilisation". (J-P. Vernant).

Do you think this adequately explains Artemis?

6. What do their foundation legends tell us about the Romans - their hopes, fears, doubts, values, prejudices, joys, sources of pride, etc.?
7. What do Greek and Roman stories about the underworld reveal about the fears and hopes of Greeks and Romans?

Section B

8. Do classical myths offer much ethical guidance, or are they more concerned with some other kind of instruction?
9. "Myths usually include extraordinary figures and actions that transcend the limits of nature". Why do you think this is so, and what function do you think the element of the supernatural or praeternatural performs?
10. Does the depiction of heroes and heroines in films differ from the way they are portrayed in Greek and Roman myths? (You may limit your consideration of films to those made in your lifetime).