

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

EXAMINATION FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE OF B.A.

NOVEMBER 1998

## CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY: 6761/3644

TIME ALLOWED: 2.5 HOURS

In addition, candidates are allowed <u>ten</u> minutes before the examination begins, to read the paper.
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Answer **THREE** questions, **TWO** from Section A and **ONE** from Section B.

### SECTION A

- 1 What issues is Hesiod's *Theogony* most concerned with? Why do you think they were important to Hesiod and, presumably, his audience?
- 2 What is the extent and nature of the power of Zeus? How does he relate to/control/deal with mortals and immortals?
- 3 "In the polarities of Heracles' experiences, nature and culture and the human and divine converge to produce a model of the Greek hero that is contradictory in its very essence." (Harris and Platzner). To what extent do you see the model of the Greek hero as presented by Heracles as "contradictory in its very essence"?
- 4 "Polar opposites but with much in common." To what extent do you think this is true of Apollo and Dionysus?
- 5 "The figure of Artemis represents one solution to the inherent tension between nature and culture." Is this a fair description of Artemis? Is there anything else that she represents?

- 6 "The Roman foundation legends are full of fraud and propaganda are also extremely unsavoury." Comment.
- 7 Why was the marriage of Persephone to Hades so important for humanity?

## SECTION B

- 8 Myths tend to have a variety of versions. Sometimes the variety is a matter of detail, at other times there are major changes in story line and emphasis. Why do you think this is so?
- 9 Many myths feature animals and monsters in some way. Discuss role of animals and monsters in at least three Greek myths.
- 10 Think of some of the problems that face humanity (eg. environmental degradation, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, global financial collapse, over-reliance on technology) and consider whether ancient ideals or depictions of heroism in mythology are adequate to help us deal with them.