

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

6761/3644 CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

Time: $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Answer 3 questions, *two* from
Section A and *one* from Section B

Section A

1. Zeus seems to have started life as a weather god. To what extent, in Greek mythology, is he an arbitrary and uncontrollable natural force, and to what extent is he a just principle of order?
2. Most stories about the human race begin with some kind of 'golden age'. What are the characteristics of this age? What do the stories say has led to the loss of this paradise?
3. Are Greek heroes, in general, role-models for us to imitate?
4. Deities and stories about them presumably meet a need in a society. What needs do you think Dionysus and stories about him met?
5. If a function of myths is to warn people about certain things, what warnings are associated with stories about Artemis? Do stories about Artemis only serve as warnings, or do they also recommend and endorse things?
6. What do you think stories about Rome's origin and foundation are trying 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?

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Section B

8. What is necessary for the creation and re-telling of myths to flourish in a society?
9. “One day the understanding of mythology will be counted as one of the most useful discoveries of the Twentieth Century”. (M. Eliade). Giving reasons, say to what extent you agree with Eliade.
10. What do you think are the main issues that Greek mythology deals with? Do you think that the insights and solutions they suggest are valid today or need updating?