

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

June 2000

**6761/3644 Classical Mythology
II/III**

Time: 2 ² Hours

ANSWER 2 questions

Section A

1. To what extent do the myths of the coming into being of the gods support the theory that these gods were, in origin, the personifications of natural phenomena?
2. In various contexts, Prometheus claims to be the benefactor of the human race. Evaluate this claim.
3. Is it reasonable to see Apollo as a role model, especially for Greek adolescent males?
4. To what extent is it true to say that Dionysus offers salvation but fails to provide ethical guidance?
5. Does Artemis function as a conservative force, preserving things as they are, or does she challenge the status quo and encourage different approaches?
6. Why did stories about the foundation of Rome matter to Romans?
7. The rape of Persephone caused a crisis in heaven and on earth before a resolution was achieved. What lessons from the episode might have been learnt by Demeter, Persephone, Zeus and Hades?

ANSWER 1 question **Section B**

8. How do the Olympian deities (including Heracles) represent the distinctive characteristics of Greek myths, including its emphasis on anthropomorphism, individualism, competitiveness and ambivalence?

9. "Through its myths a healthy society gives its members relief from neurotic guilt and excessive anxiety" (R. May). How could their myths have given Greeks relief from guilt and anxiety? Could they have made things worse?

10. "The film-makers and science-fiction writers of today are the nearest equivalent to mythographers in Greece and Rome" Do you agree?