

Odyssey Exam Guide

Vocabulary Words: 2 from each book x 7 = 14 x 2 points (1pt def and 1 pt sentence) = 28pts

Book 5

Indignation (page 156)

Buoyed (page 158)

Pine (158)

Sodden (167)

Strewing (163)

Book 6

Blithe (page 169)

Exultant (page 172)

Rapt (173)

Stark (175)

Donned (175)

Book 8

Strife (194)

Slander (197)

Ablaze (200)

Battened (205)

Staunch (210)

Book 9

Squadron (214)

Suppliant (219)

Spurting (223)

Duped (224)

Crag (226)

Book 10

Folly (231)

Crag (234)

Bristling (237-238)

Potent (239-240)

Listless (246)

Book 12

Transfix (Page 272)

Quarry (Page 274)

Radiant (Page 275)

Churned (Page 272)

Ravishing (Page 277)

Book 13

Libations (287)

Trove (Page 293)

Guile (Page 296)

Plunder (Page 291)

Lithe (Page 299)

Reading Questions: 1 from each book x 7 = 7 questions (worth 4 pts each) = 28pts

Book 5

- 1.) How does Calypso feel about the way the gods treat relationships between immortal and mortal beings? (Lines 129-150)
- 2.) Why does Calypso eventually allow Odysseus to return to his home of Ithaca? (Lines 152-160)
- 4.) Why does Odysseus not trust Calypso's offer to send him home? (Lines 190-199)
- 5.) Why didn't Calypso tell Odysseus that the gods of Olympus were the ones who wanted to send him home and not her?
- 6.) How is Calypso trying to persuade Odysseus to stay on her island and not return home? (Lines 219-236)
- 7.) Why does Odysseus still want to leave after Calypso predicted that he would go through pain, when Odysseus has already experienced, first hand, predicted fates coming true?
- 8.) How does Calypso feel about Odysseus returning home to Ithaca? (Lines 230-236)
- 9.) How does Odysseus use the environment around him to his advantage when he's beached on the Phaeacians' island? (Lines 524-547)
- 10.) What are the parallels between Odysseus' life on the water during Poseidon's storm and Odysseus' life on Calypso's island? (Lines 365-380)

Book 6

1. What was the importance of Athena being disguised? How does her being disguised effect the encounter she has with Nausicaa? (Page 169)
2. Who is the "bright-eyed goddess"? Why is she referred to with an epithet and Nausicaa only referred to by her name? What does this show about the God/Human hierarchy? (Page 169)
3. Why does Odysseus ask Nausicaa if she is human or god? (Page 172)
4. How did Odysseus use persuasion to convince Nausicaa to trust him? Which specific examples of persuasion did he use? Which methods were the most effective? (Page 172)
5. To what extent does Odysseus try to persuade Nausicaa? Which persuasion techniques does he use and how do they help him? (Page 173-174)
6. Does Odysseus have the power to promise gifts from the gods? Why or why not? Which Odyssey concepts is Odysseus displaying? How/why? (Page 174)
7. What kind of persuasive element(s) does Nausicaa use to show her handmaids that Odysseus was a good man? (Page 174)
8. Why does Nausicaa trust Odysseus? (Page 174)
9. How did the Phaeacians respond to Odysseus emerging from the sea? What does that reveal about Odysseus and the Phaeacians? (Page 175)
10. How does Nausicaa react to the new Odysseus? What does this show about her character? (175)

Book 8

1. How does Odysseus's presence in the song of the bard show that he will be remembered? (193-194)
2. Why does Odysseus react the way he does to the bard's song of his past journeys and exploits? (194)
3. How and why does Odysseus show hubris in his reaction to Laodamas's challenge? (196-197)
4. Is Xenia being violated by Laodamas's challenge of Odysseus? Explain. (197)
5. How are the gods depicted in this passage similar or different to humans? (200)
6. How is appetite vs. mind shown in the story of Hephaestus, Aphrodite, and Ares? (200)
7. How do Hephaestus's feelings in the passage relate to how Odysseus has been feeling while he has been away on his journey? (200)
8. What is the significance of Odysseus tying up his gifts to protect them on his journey in a way that he would not do if he were at home? (205)
9. How does Odysseus's telling of his story lead to him being remembered (even to today)? (209-210)
10. Why would the people want to hear about Odysseus's journey and why is Odysseus telling the story? (210)

Book 9

1. What effect does the Odyssey concept of Appetite/Mind have on the crewmen of Odysseus? What effect does it have on Odysseus? What does this show about their character?(p. 214. L. 106-107)
2. What persuasive element does Odysseus use to get his crew off the Island of the Lotus-eaters and on to the ship? Why does this technique work? (p.214 l. 114)
3. How does the way Odysseus and his crew act on the Island of the Lotus-eaters show the similarities/ differences between their behavior on land and on sea?(p. 214 l. 106-117)
4. How is it ironic that Odysseus is reminding Polyphemus to respect Xenia?(p.220 l.203-205)
5. How well is Odysseus able to come up with an idea on how to talk to Polyphemus? What does this show about his resourcefulness? (p.219 l. 288-290)
6. What is the significance of Odysseus telling Polyphemus that his name is Nobody? How is this related to Epithet?(p.223 l. 409-411)
7. What were the Xenia gifts that Polyphemus and Odysseus gave each other? How do these gifts violate Xenia?(p.223 l. 409-414)
8. How would Odysseus's journey home have changed if he had remained humble and not taunted Polyphemus?(p.227 l. 557-562)
9. Is it the fate of Odysseus's crew to suffer alongside him for all of Odysseus's wrongdoings?(p.227 l. 555-557)
10. How does the Odyssey concept of Fate/Freedom have to do with the reasons for Odysseus taunting Polyphemus?(p. 227 l.557-562)

Book 10

1. How does the idea that Odysseus could be so close to his home yet be swept away relate to Athena and Poseidon's curse? How does Odysseus' experience affect himself? (231)
2. How is Odysseus' fate shown when he falls asleep near Ithaca? What element of persuasion does the characters use towards each other? (231)
3. How does Odysseus' crew persuade each other to open the bag? How does this relate to appetite vs. mind? (231-232)
5. Why is it so important to the witch to turn these men into pigs but to keep their minds steadfast as humans and wipe away all memories of home? (237)
6. What rule does Circe violate, how? (237- 238)
7. Who helps Odysseus and why? How does this relate to immortals/mortals? What element of persuasion does the helper use to get Odysseus' trust? (239-240)
8. What does Odysseus going to Circe for directions home show about his character and his resourcefulness/at a loss conflict? (p. 246-247)
9. How does Circe's point of view specifically affect the tone of the passage and how Circe being home affects the directions she gives to Odysseus? (p. 246-247)
10. How does the Fate/Freedom controversy Odysseus faces prove his humility to the gods? (p. 246-247)

Book 12

1. Why did Circe only tell Odysseus about the trials he will face, instead of informing the whole crew? Why does Odysseus trust her? (272-273)
2. Is it possible to prevent Scylla from hurting the ship's crew? Or is it fate that Scylla will bring damage. What concept is it related to - how and why?(274)
3. What does it say about the god's view of Scylla if she, an immortal, is afraid of the monster? (274)
4. Why doesn't Odysseus fully explain to his men the consequences harming the cattle of the sun? Due to Circe's explanation that if Odysseus's men eat the cattle, then he will be hurt, is his motivation to stop them purely for their benefit? (275)
10. What does Odysseus plan to gain by excluding the information about Scylla to his men? (276)
5. Why is Odysseus so set on hearing the Siren's song to the point where he is demanding his men to tie him tighter to the pole if he pleads to be set free? (276)
6. Why does Odysseus make what he was told by Circe seem less extreme when telling his men? (276)
7. How does Odysseus show hubris by cheating death and becoming the only man to survive hearing the sirens song? (276-277)
8. How does Odysseus make himself to seem godly strong when telling this story and explaining how the wax became soft? (276-277)
9. How can Odysseus use this story to persuade people into helping him get back home to Ithaca? (276-277)

Book 13

1. How does the celebration in Phaicia compare gods and humans and show their interaction? What does this celebration reveal about the character of the Phaeacians and their belief in Xenia? (287)
2. What does Homer's comparison of Odysseus to a farmer symbolize? (287)
3. Why is Athena referred to as "daughter of Zeus," rather than just Athena? How does this promote her character? (292)
4. Why is Odysseus so quick to negatively judge the land he arrives on? How does this relate to on the journey vs. at home? (293)
5. What does Athena do to Odysseus' perception after covering him with mist? How does this display a difference between gods and humans? (292-293)
6. How are humans and gods comparable in the way they act like humans? (296)
7. How does Athena conceal the identity of Odysseus? Why does she do this? (296)
8. Why does Athena help Odysseus even though he is a human? (295-6)
9. Why does Poseidon feel threatened by the mortals if he is immortal? What does this reveal about his character? (290)
10. How and when do the gods behave like human beings? What does this reveal about gods? (299)

Passages: 1 x 44 pts = 44pts

Book 1, 2, 7, 11, 16, 22

Vocab = 28 (14)

Reading guide questions = 28 (7)

Paragraph = 44 (1)

Total = 100

You will not be allowed to use your book or your Odyssey concept sheet or any notes during the exam.

There will be several different exams with different vocab words, questions and passages. Copying other people's work will make no sense.