



Sixth Form Entrance 2018

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

1 hour

Answer on file paper.

SECTION A is compulsory.

Choose one question from SECTION B.

Start each answer on a fresh sheet of paper.

Write your name and present school on all sheets of paper used.

SECTION A – spend 30 minutes on this question.

Read PASSAGE A and PASSAGE B carefully, and then answer the questions.

Oedipus, King of Thebes, had four children – Antigone and Ismene, Eteocles and Polynices.

PASSAGE A

- Antigone** Have you heard this order, this latest order which the King has proclaimed to the city? Have you heard how our nearest and dearest are being treated like enemies?
- Ismene** I have heard nothing about those we love, neither good nor evil – not, I mean, since the death of our brothers, both fallen in a day.
- 5 **Antigone** I thought you did not. That’s why I brought you out here, where we shan’t be heard, to tell you something alone.
- Ismene** What is it, Antigone? Black news, I can see already.
- Antigone** O Ismene, what do you think? Our two dear brothers Creon has given funeral honours to one, and not to the other; nothing but shame and disgrace.
- 10 Eteocles has been buried in state, with all the honourable observances due to the dead. But Polynices, just as unhappily fallen – the order says that he is not to be buried, not to be mourned; to be left unburied, unwept, a feast of flesh for keen-eyed carrion birds. The noble Creon! It is against you and me that he has made this order. Yes, against me! And soon he will be here himself to make it plain
- 15 to those who have not heard it, and to enforce it. This is no idle threat – the punishment for disobedience is death by stoning. So now you know.
- And now is the time to show whether or not you are worthy of your high blood.
- Ismene** My poor Antigone, if this is really true, what more can I do, or undo, to help you?
- Antigone** Will you help me? Will you do something with me? Will you?
- 20 **Ismene** Help you to do what, Antigone? What do you mean?
- Antigone** Would you help me lift the body ... you and me?
- Ismene** You cannot mean ... to bury him? Against the order?
- Antigone** Is he not my brother, and yours, whether you like it or not? I shall never desert him,

never.

25 **Ismene** How could you dare, when Creon has expressly forbidden it?

Antigone He has no right to keep me from my own.

Ismene O sister, sister, do you forget how our father perished in shame and misery, his awful sin self-proved, blinded by his own self-mutilation? And then his mother, his wife – for she was both – destroyed herself in a noose of her own making.

30 And now our brothers, both in a single day fallen in an awful exaction of death for death, blood for blood, each slain by the other's hand. Now we two are left; and what will be the end of us, if we break the law and defy our king? O think, Antigone! we are women; it is not for us to fight against men; our rulers are stronger than we, and we must obey in this, or in worse than this. May the dead forgive me, I can do
35 no other but as I am commanded; to do more is madness.

Antigone No; then I will not ask you for your help. Nor would I thank you for it, if you gave it. Go your own way; I will bury my brother; and if I die for it, what happiness! Convicted of reverence – I shall be content to lie beside a brother whom I love. We have only a little time to please the living, but all eternity to love the dead. Live, if
40 you will, live, and defy the holiest laws of heaven.

Ismene I do not defy them; but I cannot act against the State. I am not strong enough.

Antigone Let that be your excuse then. I will go and heap a mound of earth over my brother.

- a) **Passage A, lines 1-16:** What dreadful news does Antigone relay to her sister? Make **THREE** points. (3)
- b) What does Antigone plan to do, and what does she want Ismene to do? (2)
- c) **Passage A, lines 27-35:** Why is Ismene unwilling? Give **TWO** reasons for her unwillingness. (2)
- d) **Looking at Passage A as a whole,** what impression do you get of the characters of Antigone and Ismene? Make **FOUR** points and **refer to the text** to support your answer. (8)

Antigone leaves the stage and goes off to bury her brother. After she has performed the funeral rites, she is captured by soldiers and brought before King Creon to answer for her actions.

PASSAGE B

Creon Now tell me, did you know the order forbidding such an act?

Antigone I knew it. It was plain enough.

45 **Creon** And yet you dared to contravene it?

Antigone Yes! That order did not come from God. Justice, who dwells with the gods below, knows no such law. I did not think your proclamations strong enough to overrule the unwritten laws of God and Heaven, you being only a man. God's laws are not of yesterday or today, but everlasting, though where they came from, none of us can tell. I cannot be guilty of their transgression before God, no, not for any man on earth. I knew that I should have to die, of course, with or without your order. If it be soon, so much the better. Living in daily torment as I do, who would not be glad to die? This punishment will not be any pain. Only if I had let my mother's son lie there unburied, then I could not have borne it. This I can bear. Does that seem foolish to you? Or is it you that are foolish to judge me so?

55

Creon Ha! ... This girl's proud spirit was first in evidence when she broke the law; and now, to add insult to her injury, she gloats over her deed. But, as I live, she shall not flout my orders with impunity. My sister's child – were she even nearer – nearest and dearest, she should not escape full punishment – she and her sister too, her partner, doubtless, in this burying.

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SOPHOCLES, *Antigone*

- e) Explain **in your own words** Antigone's justification in **Passage B** for breaking Creon's law. (2)
- f) **Looking at both passages**, do you support Creon for enforcing the law, or Antigone for breaking it? Explain the reasoning behind your answer carefully. (4)
- g) **In no more than ten lines**, describe a modern-day situation where you think you might break the law because of your beliefs. (4)

Total 25 marks

SECTION B – spend 30 minutes on this question.

Answer one question from this section

1. Would you have preferred to have lived in the ancient world as a Greek or a Roman, a woman or a man?
Explain your answer.
2. Which character from the ancient world would you most like to meet? Why?
3. What can we learn from archaeology? Discuss with reference to your knowledge and experiences of Greece and/or Rome.
4. Natalie Haynes has written a book, *The Ancient Guide to Modern Living*. Imagine you were invited to contribute to such a book: what lesson/ lessons do you think the ancient world could teach the modern world?
5. Which is more appealing to you – Greek art or Greek philosophy? Give reasons for your answer.

CHECK YOUR WORK CAREFULLY.

END OF EXAM