



OEDIPUS REX & EXAM PRACTICE

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SQA GUIDELINES

Questions on Classical Literature will focus on two topics from: leadership, conflict, heroism, women in society, and fate and free will.

- 2017 leadership + conflict
- 2016 heroism + women in society
- 2015 fate versus free will + leadership
- 2014 women in society + conflict

FORMULA

In the literature section of the exam, ten marks are specifically attached to your understanding of the plot of the play.

Ten further marks come from a broader understanding of issues from the classical world.

OEDIPUS AND LEADERSHIP (2017)

Describe the actions of a leader in a classical text. 5

- character involved and background/context
- describe the actions (good or bad) of a leader
- explain why his/her actions were admirable/questionable
- results of his/her leadership.

OEDIPUS AND LEADERSHIP (2017)

Explain what this tells us about the qualities of a leader in the classical world. **3**

- In the classical world, a leader often remained a leader despite some bad decisions resulting in a loss of men eg Odysseus
- leaders were not necessarily good, selfless people but usually brave warriors, princes etc
- usually their men followed them and trusted their judgement without question.

OEDIPUS AND LEADERSHIP (2017)

Do the same qualities apply to a leader today?

Give reasons for your answer. **2**

- leaders today are usually respected; they have earned their position
- in the modern world there are different types of leaders eg political, religious
- can be removed from position if they fail in their duties.

OEDIPUS AND CONFLICT (2017)

Describe a conflict between two characters or two groups of characters in a classical text. 5

- characters involved/context of conflict
- describe conflict
- nature of conflict
- reasons for conflict
- outcome of conflict.

OEDIPUS AND CONFLICT (2017)

Explain what this tells us about conflict in the classical world compared to today. 5

- in the classical world much conflict was to protect property and gain territory
- people's attitude to conflict was one of admiration for warriors and little concern for numbers killed
- today, conflict is not admired so much
- necessary to free innocent people and protect against terrorism
- mediation and discussion preferable.

OEDIPUS AS A HERO (2016)

Describe the heroic actions of a character or characters from a classical text. **5**

- Character (s) involved in heroic actions and context
- Describe heroic actions
- Reasons for heroic actions
- Results of heroic actions

OEDIPUS AS A HERO (2016)

Explain what these actions tell us about attitudes to heroism in the classical world. 3

- Heroes tended to be brave, often warriors; usually of high status
- Were seeking glory for themselves
- Not necessarily concerned about their followers
- Not necessarily “good” people or selfless

OEDIPUS AS A HERO (2016)

Is our idea of a hero in the modern world the same as that of the classical world?

Give reasons for your answer. 2

- Today heroes can come from all walks of life
- Selfless people with little thought for themselves
- Not seeking glory; often it just happens
- Examples of modern heroes

OEDIPUS AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY (2016)

Describe a situation in a classical text where a woman or women behaved in a way which was considered inappropriate in classical times. 5

- Woman/Women involved in unacceptable behaviour and context
- Describe behavior
- Reasons for behavior
- Results of behaviour

OEDIPUS AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY (2016)

Explain what these actions tell us about the role of women in the classical world compared to today. 5

- Women in classical times had very few rights; stayed at home to look after husbands and family; did not voice opinions; very little education
- Today, in general, women have the same rights as men
- In some cultures, women still have few rights

OEDIPUS AND FREE WILL/ FATE (2015)

Describe a situation in a classical text where a character has not been in control of his or her destiny. 5

- Character(s) involved and background
- Describe the situation/ fate
- Describe attempts to change circumstances/ destiny
- Degree of success
- Final consequences/ outcome for character

OEDIPUS AND FREE WILL/ FATE (2015)

Explain what this tells us about attitudes to fate in the classical world.

3

- In classical times, most people believed all aspects of their lives were ruled by the gods
- They worshipped the gods in order to gain their protection
- Individuals would make offerings and sacrifices in an attempt to secure their fate/ future

OEDIPUS AND FREE WILL/ FATE (2015)

Do you think the idea of fate is relevant today?

Give reasons for your answer. 2

- Some believe that their God rules their lives or gives them guidance
- Others are not involved in any religion and that their fate is in their own hands

Nowadays.... Whereas...

OEDIPUS AND LEADERSHIP (2015)

Describe the actions of a leader in a classical text. 5

- character involved and background
- examples of good leadership
- examples of bad leadership
- explain why his actions were admirable
- results of good/bad leadership

OEDIPUS AND LEADERSHIP (2015)

Explain what this tells us about leadership in the classical world compared to today. 5

- In classical times leaders were brave warriors, usually of high rank/kings
- had not necessarily earned their positions
- men followed their instructions without question
- today leaders should be concerned about their followers
- have usually earned their position and can be removed from power as a result of poor decisions/actions

OEDIPUS AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY (2014)

Describe a situation in a classical text where a woman or women have behaved in a way women would never have acted in classical times. **5**

Possible points:

- Women involved in unacceptable actions/behaviour
- Describe actions
- Describe behaviour
- Reasons for actions/behaviour
- Results of actions/behaviour

OEDIPUS AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY (2014)

Explain in what ways women were expected to behave in the classical world. 3

Possible points:

- Women expected to stay indoors most of the time
- Expected to be good wives and mothers
- Obey husbands
- Not expected to participate in matters relating to government/ law

OEDIPUS AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY (2014)

In what ways does life for women today compare with life in the classical world? **2**

- Most women today have similar rights to men
- Wives and mothers but can also choose to work or not
- In some cultures women are still denied rights

OEDIPUS AND CONFLICT (2014)

Describe a conflict between two characters or two groups of characters in a classical text. (5)

Possible points:

- Characters involved in conflict
- Describe conflict
- Nature of conflict
- Reasons for conflict
- Outcome of conflict

OEDIPUS AND CONFLICT (2014)

Explain what this tells us about conflict in the classical world compared to today. 5

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