



Shrewsbury  
School

# **SHREWSBURY SCHOOL**

## **SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2024 ENTRY**

### **CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

(1 Hour)

#### **Instructions to candidates:**

- Answer QUESTION 1 **and** QUESTION 2.
- Answer on lined paper.

**1. Read the following passage and answer the questions.**

***Having made it safely to land of the Phaeacians after his ship was wrecked, (and having borrowed some clothes loaned to him by the Princess Nausicaa) Odysseus relates his painful experiences to her mother Queen Arete, and her husband, who have welcomed him into their palace.***

Queen Arete spoke to him, addressing him with winged words, 1  
"Stranger, I myself will ask you this first - who are you and where are  
you from? Who gave you those clothes? Did you not say you reached here  
wandering the sea?"  
In reply, crafty Odysseus addressed her, "It would be painful, my queen, 5  
to recount from start to finish my sufferings, since the gods dwelling in  
heaven have given me so many. But I'll tell you this, which you enquire  
and ask about. A certain island, Ogygia, lies far off in the sea, where the  
daughter of Atlas, devious Calypso of the lovely hair lives - a terrible  
goddess. And no-one sleeps with her - neither of gods nor of mortal men. 10  
But a god led me alone in my wretched state to her hearth, for Zeus struck  
my ship with his bright lightning bolt and wrecked it in the middle of the  
wine-dark sea. There all the others died, my fine companions, but I took  
the keel of my curved ship in my arms and for nine days was swept away;  
on the tenth black night the gods drew me near to the island of Ogygia, 15  
where Calypso of the lovely hair tresses, the terrible goddess, lives. She  
took me in considerately and both loved and tended me, and kept saying  
that she would make me immortal and ageless for all my days. But she  
never persuaded the heart in my breast. Seven years I stayed there,  
without a break, and constantly I would drench my clothes with tears." 20

*Odyssey Book VII. 237-260*

- a) *Queen Arete* (line 1): name her husband. [1]
- b) Pick out a stock epithet from the first paragraph (lines 1-4) [1]
- c) How does Odysseus characterize Calypso in this passage? Make **three** points. [3]
- d) How does Odysseus wish to portray himself in his answer to the queen? Refer closely to the text in your answer. [20]

TOTAL: [25]

## 2. Read the following passage and answer the questions.

*The Roman historian Tacitus, writing about 50 years after the events happened, describes the efforts of the emperor Nero to race chariots.*

He had a long-held desire to drive a four-horse chariot, and a no less shameful enthusiasm for singing to the harp, in a theatrical fashion. To engage horses in a contest, he reminded people, was a royal custom, and had been regularly engaged in by princes of olden days; it was celebrated too in poetry and was meant to show honour to the gods. Songs indeed, he said, were sacred to Apollo, and it was in the costume of a singer that the statues of that great god stood not only in Greek cities but in Roman temples as well.

He could no longer be restrained, so it seemed best to Seneca\* and Burrus\*\* to concede one point so that he might not win in both matters. A space was enclosed in the Vatican valley where he might manage his horses, without the spectacle being public. Soon, rather surprisingly, the people of Rome were invited, who praised him. However, when the disgraceful behaviour was made public, it did not bring satisfaction for their desire for entertainment, as people thought, but in fact acted as a stimulus. Imagining that the scandal would be lessened if he dragged down many others, he brought on the stage descendants of noble families, ready to be bribed because of their poverty. As these people are now dead, I think their ancestors should be paid tribute by my not recording their names here. For also the notoriety belongs to the man who gave them money for their humiliation.

With immense gifts he also forced some well-known Roman knights to offer their services in the amphitheatre, except for the fact that pay from one who has the power to command carries with it the force of compulsion.

TACITUS *Annals* XIV 14 (adapted)

\* *Nero's tutor*

\*\* *Commander of the Praetorian Guard (the emperor's bodyguard)*

a) From reading this passage, **briefly** describe what you think the attitude of the writer is towards Nero. Make **two** points. [4]

b) *amphitheatre* (final paragraph); what ancient form of entertainment usually took place here? [1]

c) How effective are Tacitus' powers of description and characterisation in this passage? Refer closely to the text in your answer. [20]

TOTAL: [25]

**END OF QUESTIONS**