**Themes from Past Papers**

**20 Mark Questions**

1. ‘Hector (Hektor) lacks the qualities of a true hero as much as Paris does.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the ‘Iliad’ you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* the qualities needed to be a hero
* the characters of Paris and Hector
* the role each plays in the plot
* what mortals say about each
* how immortals regard and treat them both
* ‘Book 23 contributes nothing to our appreciation of the ‘Iliad’.’

1. ‘Book 23 contributes nothing to our appreciation of the ‘Iliad’.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the ‘Iliad’ you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* the relationship of Book 23 to earlier events in the ‘Iliad’
* the relationship of Book 23 to the ending of the ‘Iliad’
* the way the characters are portrayed in Book 23
* the significance of Book 23 for the themes of the ‘Iliad’.

1. ‘Old men in the *Iliad* talk a lot but achieve very little.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Iliad* you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* Nestor in Book 11 and elsewhere in the *Iliad*
* Priam in Book 24 and elsewhere
* Phoenix (Phoinix) in Book 9.

1. ‘Achilles’ treatment of Priam is very different from Achilles’ behaviour elsewhere in the *Iliad*.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Iliad* you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* Achilles’ dealings with Priam
* Achilles’ dealings with Agamemnon
* Achilles’ reception of the embassy in Book 9
* Achilles’ behaviour towards Patroclus (Patroklos)
* Achilles and Hector (Hektor)
* Achilles with other characters.

**30 Mark Questions**

1. ‘The main characters in the ‘Iliad’ are motivated entirely by revenge.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the ‘Iliad’ you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* Agamemnon
* Achilles
* Patroclus
* Hector
* interventions by the immortals
* other factors including fate and the heroic code.

1. ‘The gods and goddesses in the ‘Iliad’ are simply there to make sure that fate takes its course.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the ‘Iliad’ you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* the nature of fate
* the relationship between Zeus and fate
* the relationship between Zeus and the other immortals
* the interactions of immortals and mortals
* other ways in which Homer’s portrayal of the immortals adds to the ‘Iliad’.

1. ‘In the *Iliad* neither goddesses nor mortal women have any significant influence on male behaviour.’

To what extent do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Iliad* you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* wives’ effects on their husbands
* mothers’ effects on their sons
* goddesses and their mortal favourites
* Helen, Briseis and Chryseis

1. To what extent do the speeches add to, or take away from, the action scenes in the *Iliad*?  
   Give reasons for your answer and refer to the books of the *Iliad* you have read.

You might include discussion of:

* the expectations of Homer’s audience
* the way the poem is structured
* different reasons for incorporating speeches
* the effectiveness of speeches
* the effectiveness of action scenes.