

- I. Fill the blanks with proper words 30%
1. The *in medias res* beginning is a convention of the epic form. Homer's *Odyssey* opens near the end of his almost ten-year journey, when he is marooned on the island of the nymph _____.
 2. It is not until _____ of the way into the epic that the audience learns how Odysseus came to be denied the swift return to home and family.
 3. The major playwrights of ancient Greek drama are _____, Sophocles, and _____ in tragedy, and Meander and _____ in comedy.
 4. In many works, the main character has an antagonist who creates the major conflict in the work. In *Ulysses*, for example, _____ continually blocks Odysseus's attempts to reach his homeland.
 5. In Greek myth, _____, the sculptor and ruler of Cyprus, was known for his dislike of women. He fell in love with a woman he carved and asked God of Love to bring the statue to life, and named her _____.
 6. Creon, the King of Thebes, sentences _____ to death because she defies the law to give her brother an honorable burial.
 7. John Milton uses _____ verse in his epic *Paradise Lost*, which shows formal, magniloquent capabilities of the poetic form.
 8. Shakespeare's *Venus and _____* and Marlow's *Hero and _____* are retellings of classical myth.
 9. Dante meets _____ popes in the Inferno.
 10. The characters in *Divine Comedy* are drawn mostly from ancient _____ history as well as recent and contemporary _____ history.

II. Essay questions 70%

1. What is the use of retelling an old, well-known story from the myth to a poem? Offer examples for illustration. 10%
2. In plays by Seneca, deaths and murders take place off-stage and they are communicated to the audience by means of a messenger who comes on stage to report. Renaissance tragedies such as Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* End with the deaths of the main characters (and the dead bodies) on the stage.
(A) Do you think pictures of death had a cathartic effect on the audience? 10%
(B) What is the definition of "catharsis" in Aristotle's *Poetics*? 10%
3. Classical Greek drama played with the confusion of identities in comedies. So did Shakespeare. What is the use of heroines to hide their identity and take up a male disguise. Take an example from the following plays for discussion: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, or *Cymbeline*. 10%
4. The Bible has been a resource for literature. Take Milton's *Paradise Lost* as an example and explain:
(A) The purpose and function of Milton's reworking of Biblical stories. 10%
(B) The image of Satan in *Paradise Lost*. 10%
(C) Your comment on the main characters of *Paradise Lost*. 10%

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