

# Classical Studies

Tadhg MacHugh

Classical studies

HIGHER LEVEL

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***THE ODYSSEY***



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**QUESTIONS:**

**2019:**

1. (a) Describe the character of Penelope as revealed in Homer's *Odyssey*, up to her reunion with Odysseus in Book 23. (35)  
  
(b) What do we learn from their reunion about the relationship between Odysseus and Penelope? (15)
  
2. Nausicaa is one of the most appealing characters in Homer's *Odyssey*.  
(a) Describe the character and role of Nausicaa in the *Odyssey*. (35)  
(b) For what reasons does Odysseus not stay with the Phaeacians? (15)

**2018:**

1. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Telemachus developed from being a shy and depressed young man into a confident and strong support for his father, Odysseus, in his battle with the Suitors. Trace this development and explain how it came about. (50)
  
2. Loyalty is the virtue most valued in Homer's *Odyssey* and its absence is severely punished. Discuss this view with reference to the text. (50)

**2017:**

- (a) Describe the practice of hospitality and gift-giving as described by Homer in the *Odyssey*. (40)
- (b) How does Homer use the practice of hospitality and gift-giving to show whether characters are good or evil? (10)



**2016:**

- (a) From your reading of Homer's *Odyssey*, describe how Odysseus defeats the Suitors in the Battle in the Hall. (30)
- (b) Do you think that the Suitors and the disloyal maidservants deserved their fate? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

**2015:**

1. Discuss the view that love and justice are central themes of Homer's *Odyssey*. Support your answer with reference to the *Odyssey*. (50)
2. Odysseus shows all the qualities of a great action hero in Homer's *Odyssey*. Discuss this view supporting your answer with reference to the text. (50)

**2014:**

1. (a) Analyse the relationship between Penelope and her son Telemachus in Homer's *Odyssey*. (40)  
(b) Do you agree that Telemachus is a typical teenage boy? Give reasons for your answer (10)
2. (a) Analyse the part played by the swineherd Eumaeus in the *Odyssey*. (35)  
(b) What purpose does Odysseus' disguise as a beggar serve in the story? (15)

**2013:**

- From your study of the *Odyssey* do you agree that Odysseus was a great leader of men? Support your answer with reference to the text. (50)

**2012:**

- (a) Explain how Poseidon became a bitter enemy of Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey*. (10)
- (b) How did Poseidon show his enmity for Odysseus on his journey from Troy to Ithaca? (15)
- (c) How important to Odysseus was the help he received from Athena in enabling him to triumph over the Suitors? (25)

**2011:**

- (a) Give a brief account of Odysseus' stay among the Phaeacians in Homer's *Odyssey*. (30)
- (b) Odysseus rejects the offer to stay in Phaeacia. In your opinion, what aspects of the Phaeacian way of life do not suit Odysseus? (20)



**2010:**

In Homer's *Odyssey*, the Suitors and the disloyal maidservants receive terrible punishment for their crimes. Do you think that they deserve such punishments? Support your answer by reference to the text. (50)

**2009:**

- (a) Briefly recount the Cyclops episode from Homer's *Odyssey*. (30)  
(b) What does this episode reveal about Odysseus' character? (20)

**2008:**

- Trace the development in the character of Telemachus from the opening of the *Odyssey* to The Battle in the Hall. (50)

**2007:**

- Discuss the view that love and justice are the central themes of Homer's *Odyssey*. (50)

**2006:**

- In Homer's *Odyssey*, analyse the relationship between Penelope and her son Telemachus. (50)

**2005:**

1. (a) Give a brief account of Odysseus' stay among the Phaeacians. (35)  
(b) Comment on the way of life of the Phaeacians. (15)
  
2. Discuss the importance of hospitality and of gift giving in the world of Homer's *Odyssey*. In your answer, refer to events in the text. (50)

**2004:**

- In Homer's *Odyssey* Book 23, Penelope and Odysseus are finally reunited.  
(a) Give an account of the scene in which they are reunited. (30)  
(b) Do you agree that Homer shows great insight into human emotions in this scene? In your answer, refer to the events in the text. (20)



**2003:**

- In the uncertain world of the *Odyssey*, loyalty and faithfulness are the virtues most prized and rewarded: their opposite brings harsh punishment. Discuss this statement. (50)

**2002:**

1. From Odysseus' return to Ithaca in Book 13 of the *Odyssey* to the outbreak of the fighting in the hall in Book 22, Homer slows the pace of the story considerably, yet he still contrives to hold your interest and gradually build up the tension. Comment on this assessment of Books 13 to 22 of the *Odyssey*. (50)
2. (a) Discuss the importance in the *Odyssey* of Agamemnon, his death, and the revenge gained by his son Orestes. (40)  
(b) Why do you think Homer makes so much use of this story? (10)

**2001:**

- Odysseus seems always to be able to find the right words for whatever situation in which he may find himself. He is a master of invention as well as of tact. Discuss this statement with reference to Homer's *Odyssey*. (50)

**2000:**

1. During the *Odyssey*, Telemachus develops from an insecure and depressed young man into a confident and strong support to his father in the destruction of the Suitors. Trace this development and explain what brought it about. (50)
2. 'It is true that he is going home, but he does not want to miss a thing – or a gift – on the way, and he wants to make sure that the people he meets remember that he is none other than Odysseus, hero of the battle of Troy.' Discuss this statement with reference to Odysseus' adventures on his return to Ithaca. (50)

**1999:**

1. Analyse the relationship between Odysseus and the goddess Athena in Homer's *Odyssey*. (50)
2. (a) In the *Odyssey*, how does Homer build his case against the Suitors and make us feel that they deserved their punishment. (35)  
(b) Do you have any sympathy for the Suitors? Briefly give reasons for your answer. (15)



**1998:**

- Odysseus spent a number of years living with two goddesses. Compare his relationship with Calypso to his relationship with Circe. (50)

**1997:**

1. 'No single detail in the life of heroes receives so much attention in the *Odyssey* as gift-giving.' Comment on the practice of gift-giving and its significance in the world of Odysseus. (50)

2. Analyse Penelope's behaviour towards her Suitors. (50)

**1996:**

- From your reading of the *Odyssey*, what is your opinion of Odysseus as a leader of men? (50)



**STUDY BREAKDOWN**

**ODYSSEUS:**

- Leadership
- Use of invention, tact and speaking
- Love of receiving gifts
- Not wanting to miss a thing
- Wanting people to remember him
- Qualities of a great action hero

**GODS:**

- **Poseidon:** - Why he hates Odysseus – Actions taken against Odysseus
- **Athena:** - Relationship with Odysseus and help given – Role in the fall of the Suitors – Help to Telemachus
- **Calypso & Circe:** - Odysseus' stay with each – Odysseus' relationship with each

**SUITORS (TO INCLUDE MAIDSERVANTS):**

- How Homer builds a case against them
- Punishment
- Sympathy?

**THEMES:**

- Love and justice
- Loyalty and faithfulness
- Hospitality and gift giving

**TELEMACHUS:**

- Development (Account) (Role of Athene)
- Relationship with Athene
- Relationship with Penelope
- Relationship with Odysseus
- Role in final battle
- A typical teenage boy?
- Comparison with Orestes





**BOOKS/EPISODES:**

- **Cyclops:** Summary and Odysseus' character/leadership
- **Book 23:** - Odysseus and Penelope reunite (account) – Homers insight into human emotions
- **Books 13-22:** - Homers slows pace (how) – Still holds our interest (how)
- **Phaeacians:** - Summary – way of life

**OTHER:**

- Agamemnon: - Homer's use of the story – His death – Orestes revenge
- Use of disguise – in particular that of the beggar when he returns to Ithaca
- Eumaeus – Role and character
- Nausicaa - Role & Character



**ODYSSEY QUESTION BREAKDOWN**

**2019: Penelope character & reunion with Odysseus + Nausicaa character/role & why Odysseus refuses to stay with Phaeacians**

**2018: Telemachus character development + Loyalty & faithfulness**

**2017: Hospitality & Gift Giving**

**2016: How Odysseus beats Suitors + disloyal servants deserve fate**

**2015: Love and Justice, Odysseus a great action hero (2 q's)**

**2014: Penelope & Telemachus relationship + Telemachus a typical teenage boy, Role of Eumaeus + purpose of Odysseus beggar disguise (2 q's)**

**2013: Odysseus a great leader of men**

**2012: How Poseidon became nemesis + how did he show it + help of Athene**

**2011: Phaeacians + aspects of life that wouldn't appeal to Odysseus**

**2010: Suitors & disloyal deserve punishment**

**2009: Cyclops episode**

**2008: Telemachus development**

**2007: Love and justice**

**2006: Penelope and Telemachus relationship**



**2005: Phaeacians + way of life, Hospitality and Gift giving (2 q's)**

**2004: Book 23 – Odysseus and Penelope reunited account + Homer insight into emotions**

**2003: Loyalty and Faithfulness**

**2002: Book 13-22 pace slower but tension builds, Agamemnon story + reason for use (2 q's)**

**2001: Odysseus right words at right time**

**2000: Telemachus development, Odysseus importance of gifts and seeing things (2 q's)**

**1999: Odysseus and Athena relationship, How Homer builds case against Suitors + sympathy for Suitors (2 q's)**

**1998: Relationship with Calypso and Circe**

**1997: Gift giving, Penelope's behavior to Suitors (2 q's)**

**1996: Odysseus as leader of men**



Sample Essay2009:

- (a) Briefly recount the Cyclops episode from Homer's *Odyssey*. (30)
- (b) What does this episode reveal about Odysseus' character? (20)

SUMMARY:

Having left the land of the Lotus Eaters and landed on a 'luxuriant' island with a large supply of goats, Odysseus decided to explore another island across the water that caught his attention. Odysseus took his own ship and crew and decided to leave the others. Once the crew landed Odysseus took twelve of his best men inland to learn of the inhabitants. He took with him a very potent wine which had been given to him by Maron as he foreboded that he may be confronted by a 'colossal being' that was uncivilised and had no principles.

When they arrived at a cave they found it unattended and so invited themselves in. There was a large supply of cheeses, lambs and kids and Odysseus' men begged him to allow them take the cheeses and then come back and put the kids and lambs in the ship and leave. However, Odysseus, with his insatiable need for gifts and hospitality, refused the request as he wanted to see the owner and 'had hopes of some friendly gifts.'

Eventually the owner of the cave, Polyphemus, returned and placed a huge stone blocking the entrance to the cave. He began curdling milk and undertaking other tasks before he noticed Odysseus and his men. He questioned them and Odysseus replied by stating they were on their return from Troy and had gone off course and wanted to claim hospitality from Polyphemus. The Cyclops responded by saying that he and the Cyclopes 'care nothing for Zeus' and that if he wanted to be hospitable he would be because he wanted to be not because he feared the Gods. Polyphemus then asked Odysseus about the whereabouts of his ship and Odysseus cleverly told him that his ship had been wrecked. Odysseus knew that Polyphemus' words 'were designed to get the better of me.' Polyphemus then grabbed two of Odysseus' men, bashed their heads in and ate them. Odysseus weighed up the option to kill Polyphemus there and then but realised that if he did he would not be able to move the rock blocking the entrance.

The next morning the Cyclops grabbed another two men and ate them before heading off to the mountains with his flock. Odysseus and his men were still trapped as he placed the rock in front of the door. Odysseus began 'scheming how to pay him out' and came up with the plan to use Polyphemus' olive wood staff as a weapon to stab out his eye. The men cast lots to see who would have to carry the staff and perform the duty. When Polyphemus arrived later in the evening he grabbed another couple of men and ate them. Odysseus approached him with a bowl of the potent wine that he brought with him and offered it to the Cyclops asking him how he could expect to have men visit him in the future because he had 'not behaved rightly.' Polyphemus took the wine and asked Odysseus' name, promising to give him a gift. Odysseus deceived Polyphemus by telling him that his name was 'Nobody'. Polyphemus then laughed and declared that his gift to 'Nobody' was that he would eat him last. Polyphemus was then overcome with the wine and collapsed to the ground, vomiting up morsels of the flesh he had eaten and fell into a deep sleep. Odysseus then encouraged his men. They heated the olive wood staff and the five of them drove it into Polyphemus' eye. He cried out in agony and the



other Cyclopes questioned what was happening, to which Polyphemus replied that 'it's Nobody's treachery' that was harming him. The other Cyclopes then left the area and Polyphemus sat down by the entrance to the cave to try and stop Odysseus and his men from escaping.

Odysseus devised the plan to have his men tied to the underbellies of the sheep so that they could escape without being noticed, as Polyphemus needed to let them out to graze. Odysseus clung to the largest full-grown ram. They waited until dawn when Polyphemus opened the doorway. All escaped but Polyphemus stopped the ram Odysseus was under to question why he was at the back when he was usually the first one out but this was a temporary stop before allowing the ram to leave and thus allowing Odysseus to escape. Odysseus and the men then drove the goats and sheep to the ships.

When on board the ship and partly away from land Odysseus began boasting about defeating Polyphemus, claiming that 'Zeus and all the other Gods have paid you out.' At this Polyphemus grabbed a huge rock and hurled it towards the ship, just missing but causing enough of a wave to push the ship back towards the shore. Odysseus pushed the ship off and when they were at a distance, again Odysseus was about to speak again but his men tried to stop him telling him that he was putting them in danger. Odysseus ignored their calls and shouted to Polyphemus that his name was actually Odysseus. Polyphemus then recounted that a prophet had foretold him that a man named Odysseus would blind him. He then prays to his father Poseidon to heal him of his blindness. Odysseus then replies saying that he was certain even Poseidon would not help Polyphemus. The cyclops prays that his father will not allow Odysseus reach his home in Ithaca but if he must to ensure that it is a 'wretched plight' and none of his crew survive. He then picked up another rock and hurled it at the crew just narrowly missing the rudder.

Odysseus and his men reached the island their comrades were on and mourned those who had died. They then prepared a feast with the animals they had taken, with the crew setting aside the large ram Odysseus had escaped on especially for him. The following morning the boarded the ships and left the island sailing on 'with heavy hearts' but glad to have escaped death.



**ODYSSEUS CHARACTER:**

**The Cyclops episode reveals that Odysseus is an extremely cunning character.** When Polyphemus asks him about the location of his ship Odysseus very cleverly tells him that his ship has been destroyed. Odysseus tells the Phaeacians that he was aware that Polyphemus was trying to trick him by learning the location of his ship and in lying to Polyphemus Odysseus ensured that he had an escape route off the island, if he could get out of the cave. **Odysseus is also cunning in the way that he tells Polyphemus that his name is 'Nobody'.** We see the logic of this plan when Odysseus and his men blind the cyclops and the potential threat of the other cyclopes on the islands is avoided when Polyphemus tells them that it was 'Nobody' who harmed him. **Again the cunning here is in the fact that Odysseus devised a clever ruse to ensure that he and his surviving men could get off the island.** Finally, Odysseus ingeniously uses the large sheep and rams to get himself and the men out of the cave. In observing that Polyphemus let his livestock out of the cave every morning, Odysseus very cunningly devised the plan to escape on the underbellies of the sheep. In this way the remaining men managed to escape the cave with Polyphemus' livestock. **Odysseus' ability to be aware of the potential pitfalls of his actions and so adjust them to ensure that he escapes the cave clearly demonstrates his cunning in this episode.**

This episode also reveals the **arrogant** nature of Odysseus' character. At the end of the book, when they have escaped and are in the ship, Odysseus begins boasting about his victory over Polyphemus. He shouts to him from the deck telling him the Gods have paid him back for his inhospitality. At this Polyphemus hurled a boulder at the ship that pushed it back ashore. Even at this Odysseus could not stop his gloating. Despite his men attempting to reason with him, Odysseus put the safety of his crew at stake by again beginning to mouth off to Polyphemus about his victory. He recklessly tells Polyphemus that his actual name is Odysseus and again gloats over his victory. This arrogant response to Polyphemus results in another rock just missing the boat again and Polyphemus making the prayer to Poseidon that results in the future hardships that Odysseus and his crew endure. The fact that Odysseus needed Polyphemus and others to know that it was he who blinded him highlights his arrogant nature, especially considering it is done at the cost of his and his crew's safety.

**ALSO:**

- Reckless (crew at risk)
- Selfish (wants gifts)
- Caring (grief over crew, drawing lots)



## Sample Plans

**1998:** Odysseus spent a number of years living with two goddesses. Compare his relationship with Calypso to his relationship with Circe

### Calypso:

#### *General Overview:*

- Odysseus and his crew have been punished for eating the cattle of Hyperion. His ship is struck by Zeus and Odysseus survives. After drifting for 8 days he eventually landed in Ogygia
- Odysseus tells us that Calypso, ‘received me kindly and looked after me’
- However, the reader’s first impression of Odysseus’ relationship with Calypso is not good. When Athene appeals to Zeus to be allowed get him away from Calypso at the beginning of the text, she says that Odysseus has been left to ‘languish in misery’ because Calypso ‘keeps him captive’.
- When we are first introduced to Odysseus in Book 5 he has been stuck with Calypso for 7 years. He is ‘sitting disconsolate’ looking out at the sea with tears in his eyes when we are first introduced to him, such is his grief at being stuck in Ogygia. By day he stared out at the sea but by night ‘he had to sleep with her.’
- It is only after Athene appeals to Zeus that a plan is set in motion to free Odysseus from Calypso.
- Hermes is sent down to tell her that she must let Odysseus go.
- Calypso is angered at the request and reminds Hermes that she rescued Odysseus ‘from death’. It was she who tended to him and offered to make him ‘immortal and ageless’.
- She relents as the request comes from Zeus.
- In terms of helping him leave she does help but not nearly on the level that Circe does. She blew up a following wind for his raft and gave him an axe so he could construct said raft. She also gave him food and clothes for the journey.
- What is clear is Odysseus’ lack of trust for her. He demands she swear a ‘solemn oath’ to him that she will not plot ‘mischief’ against him.
- It is upon getting this assurance that Odysseus leaves with ‘a happy heart.’



*At a Glance:*

- **Initially good relationship – saves him and cares for him – on his own no crew**
- **Homesick and captive – she wants to marry him – he wants to leave**
- **Gods interference – Hermes, under Zeus’s command tells her she must let Odysseus go**
- **Offers some assistance to him leaving – Odysseus is happy to go**

### Circe:

*General Overview:*

- Odysseus and the remainder of his crew land on Circe’s island of Aea having just escaped deaths at the hands of the Laestrygonians.
- On the island they glance a ‘reddish smoke’ in the distance and a party led by Eurylochus is sent to investigate.
- Circe turns Odysseus men into pigs but Eurylochus manages to escape to return to Odysseus and tell him what has happened. Odysseus now intends on going to confront the culprit.
- On his journey Hermes appears to Odysseus and informs him of what lays ahead. He offers Odysseus a drug that will make him ‘immune from evil’.
- Hermes gives Odysseus very clear instructions. He tells Odysseus that Circe will offer him the same potion that turned his men into pigs. After Odysseus drinks it (he will be immune) Circe will attempt to strike him so Odysseus must draw his sword and rush at her. She will shrink from him and invite him to bed. Odysseus ‘must not refuse the goddess’s favours,’ if he wants to be free and save his men. Hermes then tells Odysseus to get Circe to ‘swear a solemn oath’ not to play any more tricks on him.
- Everything happens as Hermes says and we are surprised to learn that Circe actually already knows who Odysseus is. She tells us that Hermes had previously told her to expect Odysseus to visit her on his return from Troy.
- Circe returns Odysseus’ men to normal form and from that time receive excellent hospitality from Circe. In Circe’s palace they have ‘enough to last them forever’ and in then end ‘stayed for a whole year’ living off of the generous hospitality of Circe.
- Odysseus appears to have a good relationship with Circe.
- Unlike with Calypso, Odysseus appeared happy to stay on longer and it is actually his men who question why he has stayed so long and ask that he set course for home. This convinces Odysseus that it is time to leave.
- Circe treats the news very well and actually tells Odysseus that they should not stay ‘unwillingly’
- Circe tells Odysseus that he must visit Tiresias in Hades and advises him of what he must do to get there and enter. She then gives him the sacrificial animals he will require.
- What stands out in comparison to the Calypso relationship is that after visiting Hades, Odysseus actually returns to Circe to get the dead body of his comrade Elpenor.
- When Circe became aware of their arrival, she ‘came hurrying’ with her handmaids and a supply of meat and wine.





- Circe then sat down with Odysseus and gave him detailed knowledge and instruction of the various troubles he will encounter and how best to deal with them. She gives him advice on the Sirens, Scylla, Charybdis and reinforces the instruction to leave Hyperion's cattle on Thrinacie alone.
- Dawn then appeared and Circe travelled inland while Odysseus embarked with his crew.

*At a Glance:*

- **Relationship starts on the back of her turning his men into pigs – with his crew not alone**
- **He enjoys great hospitality – has to be reminded to leave**
- **Gods interference – relationship only starts because Hermes gets involved**
- **Circe does not only not attempt to prevent him leaving she gives him important instruction on what he must do**



**PENELOPE AND TELEMACHUS**

**Arguing:**

**Book 1, l.345**

- Penelope tells Phemius to stop singing about Troy
- Telemachus rebukes her. Tells her that she is not the only one who lost someone at Troy.
- Tells her to ‘go to your quarters’ and attend her work as decision making is men’s business. ‘I am master in the house’.
- ‘Penelope was taken aback’ but followed instructions.

**Book 17, l. 100**

- Telemachus has just returned and there is a feast.
- Penelope says she is going to bed as Telemachus has still not told her if he has news of Odysseus.
- Telemachus tells the story of what he learned.

**Book 18, l. 214**

- Penelope rebukes Telemachus for allowing Odysseus (as the beggar) to be treated badly, ‘you no longer show the same sense and judgement.’
- Telemachus stands up for himself, ‘I am not the child I was.’
- He tells Penelope that he cannot be sensible as there is ‘no-one to support me.’

**Book 23, l. 99**

- Telemachus rebukes Penelope for being cautious to accept that Odysseus has returned.
- ‘my heard hearted, unmotherly mother’
- ‘your heart was always harder than flint’



**Penelope's grief at the loss of Telemachus:**

**Book 4, l. 715 + l. 817**

- Penelope learns that Telemachus has left Ithaca
- She is stricken by grief, 'whirlwinds have snatched my darling son'
- She laments that nobody told her
- She says that if she had known, Telemachus never would have gone – 'I swear he would have stayed.'
- She again laments that Telemachus is gone
- She says that she grieves for Telemachus more 'than for his father'
- 'a child like him, untrained for action or debate'

**Book 17, l. 5**

- Telemachus, upon his return, says he is going to see Penelope because, 'I am sure she won't stop her dismal weeping and lamenting till she sees me in the flesh.'

**Reuniting:**

**Book 17, l. 36**

- Penelope 'threw her arms around her son's neck and kiss his forehead and his fine eyes'
- Telemachus is a bit cold in this situation – 'do not bring me to tears' and then tells her to go and bathe.



**Telemachus cannot eject Penelope for the palace:**

**Book 2, l. 130**

- Telemachus explains to the Suitors that he cannot eject Penelope – ‘Think what I would have to pay Icarius (Penelope’s father)
- He also fears the Gods would punish him

**Book 20, l. 338**

- Telemachus explains that he is ‘urging’ Penelope to make a choice and that he is ‘certainly not delaying’ any marriage.
- Says he would ‘feel ashamed’ to put her out of the house against her will.

**Telemachus praises Penelope:**

**Book 21, l. 100**

- Before the bow competition he praises Penelope
- He says that she is a ‘lady who’s like you will not find today in all Achaea’

**Telemachus rebukes Penelope:**

**Book 20, l. 131**

- ‘That would be just like my mother, who for all her wisdom is far too ready to make much of a lesser man and send a better man packing’

**Book 22, l. 344**

- Telemachus tells Penelope to get back to her quarters as the bow was men’s business. Penelope was ‘taken aback’ but obeyed.

**How to describe the relationship:**

There is plenty of evidence here to describe the numerous facets of the relationship:

- It is clearly a loving relationship. Penelope is heartbroken when she learns Telemachus is gone and is overcome with emotion when he returns. Telemachus also shows his love for his mother by not wanting her to know he is leaving as it will cause her great upset.



Penelope herself even says that if she had known that Telemachus was leaving she is certain he would not have left.

- There is evidence that perhaps there is resentment on Telemachus' part towards Penelope. Look at his frustration that he cannot just kick her out of the house and his excuses to the Suitors that she has still not chosen one of them. Look at how Telemachus rebukes Penelope for not accepting that Odysseus has returned.
- There is also evidence that Penelope has held Telemachus back. He has no male role model in his life, and this might explain the emotional nature of his character. Look at the occasions in which he gives Penelope orders and she is surprised by it. She herself says that Telemachus is a child that is not ready for action or debate.
- It could be argued that although they love each other, they do not understand each other. For example, Penelope's surprise at Telemachus' demands and her apparent lack of awareness of the effect that her stalling on choosing a new husband is having on him. Similarly look at Telemachus' lack of understanding for Penelope's refusal to just accept that the man in front of her is Odysseus.

\*If you wanted to push it further you could question a lot of Telemachus' actions towards Penelope in the latter books upon his return. The reason for this is that at this stage Telemachus now knows that Odysseus has returned, and this has given him new found confidence, particularly because he knows there is a plan in place to get rid of the Suitors. Therefore we could take his words about Penelope remarrying in the later books with a pinch of salt because he knows at this stage that her husband is in fact already in the palace\* - a point like this is worth considering as it looks at it from a different angle. It won't take up more than one point.



**Marking Schemes:**

**2014**

The relationship between Penelope and Telemachus starts with his rather rude order to her to mind her own business and go to her room. Candidates need to point out that Penelope herself is pleased with his assertiveness and evidence that he is becoming more manly and brave. Homer skilfully conveys the tension between the maturing Telemachus and his mother with whom he seems impatient, even wishing that she would choose one of the Suitors rather than keeping them hanging on. However, he asserts that he will not throw his mother out of her home and interestingly he instructs Eurycleia not to tell Penelope that he has left to find news of Odysseus till he has been gone for ten days. His reasons are concern for her and fear that she will worry and mar her lovely face with crying. She is of course, distraught when she hears of his disappearance and perhaps he is right to keep her out of the picture as she cannot help him, only worry herself. This is evidence of his growing independence and maturity. On his return, prompted by Athena's assertion that Penelope is about to marry, Telemachus again treats her rather coldly but she demands information from him. In the scene of the reunion between Odysseus and Penelope, Telemachus is very annoyed with her when she is frosty and unwelcoming to her long-lost husband, but he does not understand what she is up to. Maybe both Penelope and Telemachus underestimate each other in different ways. So there is evidence of love and a deep attachment but also irritation in their relationship, especially on the part of Telemachus who probably wants to break free of his mother's protection. At least one aspect of their relationship from the latter part of the epic should be included for full marks. (40)

**2006:**

As always, good answers will support their points with references to the text.

The relationship between mother and son is an intriguing one and treated by Homer in a very subtle way. In the first book, we are rather shocked by the harsh way Telemachus orders Penelope to her room and tells her to stay out of men's business. He is obviously beginning to assert himself and Penelope may be happy enough to see him taking responsibility. There is also a hint of resentment that she is keeping the suitors hanging on, while they eat him out of house and home. He is very aware of his father's reputation and of his own helplessness.

There are other key scenes which are good evidence for their relationship and which the best answers will pick up. In Book 2, he points out that he cannot and will not throw his mother out of her home. Then when he is making his hasty departure for Pylos and Sparta, he makes Eurycleia swear that she will not tell his mother anything for at least ten or twelve days. The reason? "She must not mar her lovely face with tears"! Once again, he seems to be showing his newfound independence. It has to be remembered that Telemachus has grown up without any strong male influence in his life.

In fact, when she learns of his whereabouts and the dangers he faces (in Book 4), she is distraught with fear for her only child. Telemachus' return from Sparta is provoked by Athena who suggests that Penelope is on the point of remarrying and taking property to her new husband. On his return (Book 17), she is naturally overcome with joy and relief but again he



rather coldly dismisses her. However, she soon demands answers and gets some information from her son.

In the recognition scene in Book 23 Telemachus chides his mother for her hardheartedness in not rushing into Odysseus' arms. "But then your heart was always harder than flint"! She accepts his rebuke but then excludes him saying that she and Odysseus will know how to sort things out.

While not necessarily using all these references, good answers will show an understanding of the factors at play in this relationship. Examples on their own will not be enough for very high marks; there must be some evidence of analysis.



**ATHENE:**

**Book 1:** Disguises herself as Mentos as encourages Telemachus to stand up to the Suitors.

**Book 2:** Bestows divine air of grace on Telemachus before he addresses the people. Disguises herself as Mentor and encourages Telemachus to continue the journey. Disguises herself as Telemachus and prepares for the journey and then disguises herself as Mentor and travels with Telemachus.

**Book 4:** Athene soothes Penelope's fears over Telemachus' journey

**Book 5:** Athene asks Zeus to allow Odysseus be freed from Calypso's island. Athene assists Odysseus by giving him the notion to grab the rocks in order to resist the water's pull toward the cliff face when he gets into danger. She lulls Odysseus to sleep to help him recover from his ordeal.

**Book 6:** Appears to Nausicaa disguised as one of her friends and encourages her to go and do the laundry.

**Book 7:** Disguises herself as a young girl and offers to guide Odysseus to the palace of Alcinous. She covers him in a veil of mist to protect him. She advises him to win the favour of Queen Arete in order to win the favour of the Phaeacians.

**Book 8:** Athene disguises herself as Alcinous' herald and summons the mighty men of Scherie to come to the Kings feast.

**Book 13:** When Odysseus lands in Ithaca, Athene uses a mist to hide the fact that he is on Ithaca. She disguises herself as a young boy. She eventually tells Odysseus he is on Ithaca. Odysseus attempts to trick her by claiming he is a lost traveller. Athene enjoys the performance and appears to him in her true form. She comments on his use of disguise. Odysseus asks why she has not been helping him but Athene explains that she has been helping him in secret as to avoid the attention of the Gods. She helps Odysseus hide his treasures. She tells Odysseus of the Suitors and explains about Telemachus' journey. She tells Odysseus to keep his return a secret and she disguises him as an old beggar. She then tells him to go to the good swineherd Eumeus and then leaves for Sparta to attempt to get Telemachus to return home.

**Book 15:** Athene appears to Telemachus in a dream and tells him to leave Sparta quickly. She informs him that Eurymachus has given the most gifts to Icarius, Penelope's father. He needs to return home to protect his wealth. When Telemachus returns she gets Telemachus to order his men to return the ship to its rightful owner and then instructs him to travel on foot to Eumeus' hut.

**Book 16:** Athene returns Odysseus to his true form and tells him to re-introduce himself to his son. He subsequently returns to the beggar disguise.

**Book 18:** Lulls Penelope into a sleep and enhances her beauty before Penelope reproaches the Suitors for their treatment of the beggar.

**Book 19:** Athene distracts Penelope when Eurycleia recognises the scar on Odysseus' foot in order to prevent her from telling Penelope.





**Book 20:** Athene appears to Odysseus the night before his encounter with the Suitors and calms his nerves by reassuring him and then drifts him off into a peaceful sleep.

**Book 21:** Athene lulls Penelope into a deep sleep when Telemachus sends her away to her room after the beggar (Odysseus) strings the bow and Penelope begins to insult the Suitors.

**Book 22:** Athene appears as Mentor as the battle in the hall ensues. Athene rebukes Odysseus for fearing to attack the armed Suitors. She tells him that he fought more bravely in Troy than he is now fighting in his own home. She takes the form of a swallow and flies to the halls rafters. Athene causes the Suitors spears to miss Odysseus. Athene throws the Suitors into a panic and a slaughter ensues.

**Book 23:** Athene delays Dawn in order to allow Penelope and Odysseus reunite. Athene releases Dawn and then conceals Odysseus, Telemachus and the two herdsmen as they journey to Laertes' farm.

**Book 24:** Athene pleads with Zeus not to allow another violent struggle to ensue. Athene appears to Odysseus disguised as Mentor.

### Possible Points:

- Rescues Odysseus multiple times; Calypso, Phaeacians
- Telemachus Development: Ensures he is a viable support
- Revenge Plot: Insights the Suitors, helps Odysseus upon his return to Ithaca, role in the final battle
- Peace at the end: Athene concludes the violence at the end. Ensures there is peace
- Penelope: Keeps a watchful eye, lulling her to sleep, enhancing her beauty, ensuring she gets time with Odysseus, distracting her with Eurycleia



### The Phaeacians

**2011:**

- (a) Give a brief account of Odysseus' stay amongst the Phaeacians in Homer's *Odyssey*. (30)
- (b) Odysseus rejects the offer to stay in Phaeacia. In your opinions what aspects of the Phaeacian way of life do not suit Odysseus? (20)

(A) Odysseus finally lands on the island of Scherie after escaping from Calypso and being tossed about the seas by Poseidon. He had been at sea for eighteen days when Poseidon learned he had escaped Ogygia and sent the storm on him. It was only through the help of the goddesses Ino and Athene that Odysseus made it to shore. Odysseus was left weak and naked at the bank of the river and so sought refuge in a nearby hedge.

At the same time, Nausicaa, the daughter of King Alcinous and Queen Arete of Scherie, was asleep in her bed when Athene appeared to her in a dream and scolds her for being lazy. She encourages her to go to the washing pools in the morning with her maidservants, to give her a better chance of gaining a husband. Upon waking, Nausicaa asks her father Alcinous to arrange a carriage so that she can go to wash clothes by the river. As Nausicaa and her maidservants play by the water Odysseus emerges from the hedge naked and ragged. All but Nausicaa run out of fear. He deliberates as to whether he should approach Nausicaa or speak to her from a distance. Out of respect for her he stays at a distance and uses his great oratory skills to plead for hospitality. She kindly offers him food and a means to clean and dress himself on the grounds that his **'manners show you are not a bad man or a fool'**. Odysseus insists he bath himself as not to offend the maidservants. Athene ensures that as he emerges from his bathing, he looks godlike. Nausicaa instructs Odysseus to follow her into the town but to **'walk quickly with my maids behind the wagon.'** She gives this instruction as to prevent the Phaeacians from gossiping about her presence with a strange man. She then instructs Odysseus to make for the palace of her father, Alcinous, but to slip straight past him and make his appeal to her mother, Arete.

Once Nausicaa has moved ahead, Athene appears to Odysseus disguised as a young girl. She warns Odysseus that the Phaeacians, **'have little affection for strangers.'** She clouds him in a thick mist so that he will be unseen and can make straight for Arete. Upon arriving at the palace, he throws himself at the knees of Arete and as the mist appears, he makes his appeal. Alcinous initially must be reminded to provide hospitality but quickly agrees to return Odysseus to Ithaca. Odysseus speaks so well that the Phaeacians believe he may be a god in disguise. Arete inquires as to Odysseus' identity and without revealing his name he recounts his escape from Calypso and how he arrived at Scherie. Alcinous then criticises Nausicaa for leaving Odysseus to make his way to the town unaccompanied but Odysseus lies to protect her, stating that the idea was his.



Alcinous is so impressed by Odysseus that he wishes Odysseus could be his son in law. The party is dismissed with the order to meet the next day for a feast.

The following morning Odysseus is summoned to the Phaeacian assembly. Athene, disguised as a herald of Alcinous, encourages the Phaeacians to come and see Odysseus. Alcinous summons the blind bard Demodocus who sings about the Trojan War. The words bring tears to the eyes of Odysseus and Alcinous, having noticed, suggest that they **‘go outside now and try skills at various sports.’** Such events included racing, wrestling, jumping, discus and boxing. After these events the son of Alcinous, Laodamas challenges Odysseus to take part, having noted Odysseus’s fine build. Odysseus refused stating he was weary from his **‘exhausting experiences’**. Euryalus, in an inhospitable act, then verbally abuses Odysseus in order to try and get him to compete. He says that Odysseus is clearly not an athlete. In response to this, Odysseus picks up the biggest, heaviest discus and flings it further than all others. Athene insights the crowd to bask in Odysseus’ glory while he himself claims **‘to be by far the best.’** Alcinous apologises to Odysseus for the insult, reminding him that the Phaeacians are more renowned for their singing, dancing and music than they are for their physical feats.

Demodocus is once again summoned and he sings about the tryst between Aphrodite and Ares. Odysseus admires the dancing of the Phaeacians after which Alcinous and the Phaeacians begin showering him with gifts. Euryalus is ordered to issue an apology to Odysseus. Odysseus then requests that Demodocus sing about Odysseus’ cunning plan with the Trojan Horse. After the story Alcinous explains that Poseidon bestowed on them the gift to travel great distances in just one day but alludes to a warning they received that one day a ship would return and be wrecked. They then ask Odysseus to reveal his identity and give an account of how he landed in Ogygia.

Once he has recounted the journey, the Phaeacian lavish more gifts on Odysseus. He makes a comment that he would happily stay another year should they continue to lavish gifts upon him. Odysseus is then brought aboard a ship and falls asleep. When he awakes, he finds that he is lying on a beach with his gifts. Unbeknownst to him he is in Ithaca, as he initially believes that the Phaeacians have betrayed him. The Phaeacian ship returns to Scherie as the people watch from the walls. However, subject to the anger of Poseidon and the approval of Zeus, Poseidon turns the ship to rock, and it plummets to the bottom of the ocean, thus confirming the warning had come true.



(B) One aspect of the Phaeacian way of life that may not have suited Odysseus was the appearance that it appeared to be dominated by the idea of living lavishly and enjoying oneself. They enjoyed feasts, dances, music and storytelling. Alcinous tells Odysseus that **‘the things in which we take a perennial delight are the feast, the lyre, the dance, frequent changes of clothes, hot baths and our beds.’** This pampered lifestyle conflicts with Odysseus’ rugged ways. He is a farmer and a warrior, and his priorities lie far from the arts. Laodamas marvels at his **‘great strength’** and also notices that Odysseus is **‘broken down by hardships.’** Odysseus lives a much tougher life than the Phaeacians. I don’t believe he would fit into their society as he would be restless, seeking hard work and challenges while the rest enjoy the relaxed and easy way of life the Phaeacians are accustomed to. This is perhaps best shown when Odysseus’ competitiveness is raised. He easily defeats the other men of the Phaeacians as he is physically stronger and strives for dominance and glory. The apparent softer way of life of the Phaeacians would not suit Odysseus.

We also see that the Phaeacian attitudes towards outsiders may not suit Odysseus. King Alcinous must be reminded to be hospitable towards Odysseus and even prior to entering the palace Nausicaa wanted to avoid being seen with him to avoid gossip and Athene shrouded him in a protective mist for fear that the Phaeacians may mistreat him for being a foreigner. Athene acknowledges that the Phaeacians **‘have little affection for strangers and do not welcome visitors with open arms.’** Further to this, Euryalus’ challenge to the forlorn Odysseus to compete in the games is at odds with traditional hospitality, again calling into question the adherence of the people of the Phaeacians to these laws. It does have to be said that in the end they are hospitable and get Odysseus home. However, Odysseus is one who demonstrates on several occasions that he values and expects hospitality, such as is seen in the Cyclops episode. Therefore, one reason I believe that one aspect of Phaeacian life that may not suit Odysseus would be the apparent lack of strict adherence to the laws of hospitality.



Odysseus as a leader of men

**2013:** From your study of the *Odyssey* do you agree that Odysseus was a great leader of men? Support your answer with reference to the text. (50)

**Yes:**

- Generates the plan to escape from the Cyclops thus saving as many of his men as possible ('Nobody', narrative about his ship, wine, blinding, sheep) – **Cunning, Intelligent**
- Saves his men from Circe and makes sure they are ok when they are leaving – **Caring, Brave**
- Successfully leads his men past the Sirens – **Clever**
- Gets his men safely off the island of the Lotus Eaters – **Brave, Daring, Responsible**
- Inspires loyalty – Eumeus and Philotias, leads them to battle the Suitors – **Charismatic**
- Trojan War stories: Leadership in coming up with the Horse, stories of both Nestor and Menelaus about his deeds
- Attempts to prevent his men from eating the cattle of Hyperion – **Caring**

**No:**

- **His men do not trust him:** Open the bag of wind of Aeolus while Odysseus as they believe he is withholding riches from them. The Cyclops episode causes them to lose trust in his decision making which is seen when Eurylochus tells him as much after returning from Circe's palace after she turned the men into piglets.
- **Laestrygonians:** Odysseus moors his ship at a significant distance from the rest of his ships leaving him with the best possible chance of escape. Once the men are attacked his ship retreats, resulting in the loss of the rest of his ships.
- **Cyclops Episode (reckless):** Ignores the men's pleas to leave the cave which results in his men dying. Arrogantly taunts Polyphemus from the ship, again despite his men's pleas, which not only puts them in immediate physical danger but is also the cause of Poseidon's anger which effectively results in all but Odysseus's death.
- **Weak:** Odysseus relents to the request of his men to rest on Hyperion's island despite clearly knowing the risk of his eating his cattle. He is unable to prevent them from eating the cattle but should be considered in some way responsible given that, knowing the risks, at one stage he went in land to sleep which gave the men the opportunity to eat the cattle which results in their deaths.
- **Selfish:** He lies to his men in relation to the Sirens. Circe had advised him as to how they could avoid immediate danger, however, in repeating her advice to his crew he



tells them that Circe stated that he alone was instructed to hear their voices. This is a lie and once again puts his men in danger.

- **Scylla & Charybdis:** Despite being fully aware of the danger they were approaching in regard to Scylla and Charybdis, Odysseus neglects to tell his men.
- **Inspires disloyalty:** Whereas Eumeaus and Philotias are examples of those loyal to Odysseus, Melanthis and Melanthis demonstrate examples of those who were disloyal, which can be viewed as a reflection on his leadership.
- **Violent:** His violent reaction to Eurykleia discovering his identity demonstrates a callousness and vindictiveness.
- **Reliance on the Gods:** Odysseus relies on others for much of what happens in the text. He is only able to lead the slaughter against the Suitors as a result of Athene. He is only able to save his men from Circe as a result of Hermes.
- **Important** – Odysseus leaves the most able-bodied young men of Ithaca 20 years earlier and returns to Ithaca with none of them.



### Loyalty & Faithfulness (Love & Justice)

- Questions centre on how the above are central themes in the epic.
- Question can also ask you to make reference to the rewards and punishments resulting for those who display the qualities.
- **Love:** Relates to loyalty/faithfulness/disloyalty/unfaithful
- **Justice:** Relates to punishment/reward

**Faithful/Unfaithful:** Explore from the point of view of relationships in reference to marriages.

**Loyal/Disloyal:** Explore in relation to relationships centring on power dynamics, e.g. leadership

### Faithful:

#### *Odysseus:*

- An interesting character to analyse given the blurred line he draws between being unfaithful and faithful to Penelope.
- **Unfaithful:** He does have relationships with both Calypso and Circe. Whereas he appears to be an unwilling participant with Calypso, he appears happy to stay with Circe for as long as is convenient. However, it should be noted that both are goddesses and he was very aware of the dangers involved in refusing their advances.
- **Faithful:** With that being said, he turns down the chance of immortality and the chance to stay with either Circe or Calypso, such is his love for Penelope. He also turns down the opportunity to stay with the Phaeacians and marry Nausicaa.
- **Punishment:** If we are to view them as punishments, he loses 7 years with Calypso and 1 year with Circe.
- **Reward:** Ultimately his faithfulness to Penelope sees him return to Ithaca, slaughter the Suitors and reunite with his wife.

#### *Penelope:*

- The ultimate example of the faithful wife.
- She stays faithful to Odysseus for the 20 years of his absence. Reference may be made to her leading some of the Suitors on. However, given the circumstances and the fact that she does not act on any of this, it is at least understandable.
- She cleverly comes up with the story and plan about Laertes's shroud in order to buy herself more time in picking a Suitor.
- Homer consistently refers to her as loyal and faithful.
- Towards the end when she resigns herself to selecting a Suitor, she lays out a challenge so difficult as to ensure that the successful candidate is the one closest to physically matching the feats of Odysseus.



- **Reward:** Her 20 year wait for Odysseus to return comes to fruition and she is reunited with her husband.

### Unfaithful:

#### *Clytemnestra:*

- Used as a contrast to the faithful Penelope.
- Her story is told several times throughout the epic.
- When Agamemnon leaves for the Trojan War she begins an affair with Aegisthus and the two rule Argos together.
- When Agamemnon returns, she has him murdered.
- She is the worst example of the unfaithful wife in the text and is used as a means of boosting the great qualities of Penelope.
- **Punishment:** She and her lover are killed by her son Orestes and her name lived on in infamy.

#### *Agamemnon:*

- Agamemnon returned to Argos after the Trojan War with Cassandra.
- He did not remain faithful to Clytemnestra.
- **Punishment:** Murdered.

#### *Aphrodite:*

- The goddess of love and wife of Hephaestus.
- Her story of unfaithfulness is told by Demodocus.
- She engages in an affair with the god of war, Ares and when Hephaestus discovers this, he hatches a plan to catch them in the act.
- **Punishment:** Caught in a netting while love making and publicly embarrassed in front of the other gods.

#### *Helen:*

- An interesting character to explore in the context of the question.
- As the wife of Menelaus, her affair with Paris causes the Trojan War
- Inevitably she betrays Troy and returns to Menelaus.
- She acknowledges the role she played in causing the war.
- What is interesting is that it appears that she suffer no direct punishment but others around her appear to have been punished for her unfaithfulness, **e.g.** Penelope and Odysseus are separated, the circumstances of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon are centred on the war, essentially everything in the epic is a result of Helen's unfaithfulness.





**Loyal:**

***Eurycleia:***

- Loyal nurse to Telemachus and Odysseus.
- Extremely loyal to Penelope and Odysseus' household.
- She is the only person that Telemachus trusts with the knowledge that he will soon leave Ithaca on a voyage.
- She recognises the scar on Odysseus' foot while he is disguised as the beggar and agrees to keep the secret.
- She assists in picking out the loyal and disloyal maidservants and regularly speaks ill of the Suitors. She celebrates their deaths.
- **Reward:** The house is rid of the Suitors and her master Odysseus returns.

***Eumeaus:***

- The loyal swineherd to both Telemachus and Odysseus
- Homer speaks to him directly throughout the epic, such is his fondness for the character.
- He speaks about Odysseus as a great master and longs for his return. He despises the Suitors.
- He also demonstrates his loyalty through his hospitality to the disguised Odysseus.
- He is loyal to Telemachus and follows his instructions.
- He is overjoyed when Odysseus reveals his true identity.
- He fights alongside Odysseus in the battle against the Suitors.
- **Reward:** Odysseus returns. Also rewarded with a wife, house and elevated status of brother to Telemachus for fighting alongside Odysseus.

***Philotias:***

- Loyal cowherd of Odysseus.
- Demonstrates a great love and loyalty for Odysseus and is also overjoyed at seeing his return.
- Fights alongside Odysseus in the battle against the Suitors.
- **Reward:** Odysseus returns. Also rewarded with a wife, house and elevated status of brother to Telemachus for fighting alongside Odysseus.



***Argus:***

- Loyal bloodhound of Odysseus.
- Had been a well-trained hunting companion prior to Odysseus leaving for the war.
- He had been left to the side in Odysseus's absence and now lay old and decrepit in a pile of dung.
- The suggestion is that his loyalty to Odysseus kept him alive in order to see his master one last time.
- Recognises Odysseus and then passes away.
- **Reward:** Saw his master one last time and knew he was alive.

**Disloyal:**

***Suitors:***

- Disloyal to the Gods (hospitality: treatment of Telemachus, treatment of Odysseus's property, treatment of the servants and maidservants).
- Disloyal to Odysseus: Odysseus identifies some of the Suitors that he had known for years, e.g. Antinous and Eurymachus.
- Plot to kill Telemachus
- **Punishment:** All 108 were killed.

***Melantho:***

- Disloyal maidservant
- Very disrespectful to the disguised Odysseus.
- Disrespectful to Penelope, even though Penelope helped to raise her.
- She was having affairs with the Suitors.
- **Punishment:** She is hanged with the other disloyal maidservants after having cleared the bodies of the Suitors.

***Melanthius:***

- Disloyal goatherd
- Verbally and physically abuses the disguised Odysseus.
- Loyal to the Suitors.
- **Punishment:** Received a vicious punishment in which he was bound to the rafters, had his nose and ears cut off, as well as his hands and feet. They then **'ripped away his genitals as raw meat for the dogs.'**



*Odysseus's Crew:*

- Open the bag of wind of Aeolus when Ithaca was in sight.
- Men refused the order to leave the island of the Cicones.
- Ate Hyperion's cattle against Odysseus's orders.
- **Punishment:** They all die

**Structure:**

*Simple Structure:*

- Faithful: Explore characters and reward
- Unfaithful: Explore characters and punishment
- Loyal: Explore characters and reward
- Disloyal: Explore characters and punishment



## Agamemnon Story

### 2002:

- (a) Discuss the importance in *The Odyssey* of Agamemnon, his death and the revenge gained by his son Orestes (40).
- (b) Why do you think Homer makes so much use of this story? (10)

### Context:

- Agamemnon commanded the Greek army at Troy
- He returned home after the war to his wife Clytemnestra with Cassandra and two sons.
- Clytemnestra had been having an affair with Aegisthus and had had Agamemnon killed upon his return.
- Orestes, the son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, killed her and her lover in an act of revenge.

### Agamemnon vs Odysseus:

- Agamemnon is used a comparison character with Odysseus to demonstrates that values of faithfulness/unfaithfulness and the results that follow.
- Agamemnon's story also serves to demonstrate the difference in the characters of both men that impact on their return to their respective homes.
- Agamemnon's story is actually used as an example to Odysseus of what to avoid upon his return. When he meets Agamemnon in Hades he warns Odysseus of returning home for all to see. This results in the disguise of the beggar and Odysseus being very careful in who he reveals his identity to. This is in contrast to Agamemnon he returns home openly with Cassandra and two sons in tow.
- This highlights Odysseus's more positive characteristics: intelligent, cunning, faithful
- Highlights the importance of a faithful wife.
- Also highlights the importance of having the gods on your side, in this case Athene who gives Odysseus the disguise of the beggar and actively supports him in his pursuit of the Suitors.

### Telemachus vs Orestes:

- Orestes murdered his mother in an act of vengeance for his father.
- From the beginning, the story of Orestes is used as a standard for Telemachus to live up to in leading the house of Odysseus.
- Other characters, such as Nestor and Menelaus, also use Orestes's name to invoke a character change in Telemachus.
- The story of Orestes is central to the character development of Telemachus.



**Penelope vs Clytemnestra:**

- The respective wives of Odysseus and Agamemnon are contrasted with each other to demonstrate the rewards and punishments for faithfulness and unfaithfulness.
- This contrast highlights the positive qualities of Penelope and makes her a more appealing character.

**Themes:**

- The story emphasises the themes of love and justice
- Highlights that the gods are not to blame for all mortal problems.

**Why Homer uses the story:**

- The story of Agamemnon would have been well known in the ancient world as part of the Trojan cycle and so served as an appropriate comparative for Odysseus and his family.
- The story developed the central theme of love and justice
- Aided in character development.



Poseidon

2012:

- (a) Explain how Poseidon became a bitter enemy of Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey*. (10)
- (b) How did Poseidon show his enmity for Odysseus on his journey from Troy to Ithaca? (15)
- (c) How important to Odysseus was the help he received from Athens in enabling him to triumph over the Suitors? (25)

(a) The answer here is a brief summary of the cyclops episode. The key point is that Odysseus incurs the wrath of Poseidon as a result of blinding his son Polyphemus. It is vital to demonstrate a brief knowledge of the episode, but the main area of focus is Odysseus tricking, blinding and taunting Polyphemus, which results in Polyphemus praying to Poseidon for revenge. Poseidon thus answers the request of his son.

(b) There are numerous examples of Poseidon showing his 'enmity' towards Odysseus;

**Bk. 1:**

- Athene acknowledges that all of the Gods, except for Poseidon pity the plight of Odysseus.
- Athene acknowledges that Poseidon has pursued Odysseus with '**relentless malice**'
- Zeus also acknowledges the enmity that Poseidon holds towards Odysseus and makes reference to Polyphemus.
- Zeus states that Poseidon is the one keeping Odysseus in exile but '**stops short of killing him.**'

**Bk. 5:**

- When returning from Ethiopia, Poseidon sees that Odysseus has escaped from Calypso
- Poseidon sates that he means '**to let him have a bellyful of trouble.**'
- In line with the statement he raises a storm which knocks Odysseus from his craft.
- Odysseus demonstrates his awareness of the role that Poseidon plays here when he says, '**I am well aware that the famed Earthshaker is at odds with me.**'
- As a result of the storm Odysseus lands on the island of Scherie where he stays with the Phaeacians.



**Bk. 9:**

- Polyphemus prays to his father Poseidon asking that if Odysseus is to return to Ithaca that it be **'late, in wretched blight'** and with none of his crew.
- We are then told that Poseidon **'heard his prayer'**
- *This is essentially the answer to question (a).*

**Bk. 11:**

- In Hades, Tiresias tells Odysseus that Poseidon is **'going to make your journey hard.'**
- This is how Odysseus becomes aware of the trouble that Poseidon will cause him on his quest to get home
- Tiresias explains to Odysseus that Poseidon is targeting him because **'you blinded his loving son.'**
- Tiresias explains to Odysseus that once he has killed all of the Suitors he must sail to an unknown foreign land and sacrifice to Poseidon in order to end this anger.

**Bk. 13:**

- Poseidon appeals to Zeus to be allowed to punish the Phaeacians for helping Odysseus get home. Zeus consents to this.
- Upon the boat coming into the view of the Phaeacians as it returns from leaving Odysseus in Ithaca, Poseidon turns the ship to a rock and it sinks to the bottom of the sea.
- This incident demonstrates Poseidon's enmity towards Odysseus in the way that he even punishes those who help Odysseus.



*It is important to note that Poseidon is well aware of the fact that he is not in a position to prevent Odysseus from returning home. The emphasis of his enmity is to make that journey home as long and as difficult as possible.*

*It is also worth noting that Athene does not get into direct conflict with Poseidon over this. She is careful to time her appeals to Zeus and her actions in protecting Odysseus with when Poseidon is away and not paying attention.*

- (c) It is important to refer to the evidence presented under the ‘Athene’ heading in providing an answer to this question. The essential answer is that Athene’s help is pivotal. As a brief synopsis Athene is responsible for the following:
- Ensuring Odysseus returns home
  - Disguising him so he would not be noticed
  - Overseeing the development of Telemachus so that he would be a suitable support for Odysseus.
  - She incites some of the Suitors actions in order to build the case against them and raises Odysseus’ anger towards them.
  - She plants the idea in Penelope’s head for the contest to string the bow
  - .She actively takes part in the final battle in the Hall and encourages Odysseus.
  - In the end, she finalises the peace between Odysseus and the families of the now dead Suitors.





Odysseus & Penelope reunited

2004:

In Homer's *Odyssey* Book 23, Penelope and Odysseus are finally reunited.

- (a) Give an account of the scene in which they are reunited. (30)
- (b) Do you agree that Homer shows great insight into human emotions in this scene? In your answer, refer to the events in the text. (20)

**(a) Summary:**

This is a straightforward summary of the scene. You are getting marked on the accuracy of your detail and knowledge of the events. The reference point in the text is pages 303-307. Use the summary to present the answer. This is also an opportunity for you to utilise the evidence you present here in part (b).

- (b) This is an opinion question. There are three characters in the scene so the most straightforward way to approach the question is to have three individual points on the wide array of emotions shown. This way you can link back to the question very clearly while having a concise structure.

Telemachus:

- Telemachus is already aware that his father, Odysseus, has returned and has shared that joy with him.
- However, this is an important moment for Telemachus as this is the first time he has seen his parents together in 20 years.
- The key emotion he displays here is **frustration** towards his mother for not openly accepting that her husband has returned.
- Telemachus rebukes Penelope for being cautious to accept that Odysseus has returned.
- **'my hearted, unmotherly mother'**
- **'your heart was always harder than flint'**



Penelope:

- Homer displays great insight into human emotion further in his portrayal of Penelope as the cautious wife.
- It is made clear from the beginning that many people have arrived over the years with false news of Odysseus' return and so Penelope is cautious to accept that the man sitting in front of her is her husband.
- She displays her **caution** by weighing up her options as to how she will approach speaking to Odysseus. She states that the **shock 'has numbed'** her and this is the cause of her uncertainty.
- She is clearly **conflicted** by the man sitting in front of her as she has not seen him in 20 years, **'I have too clear a picture of you in my mind as you were.'**
- She displays her **intelligence/cunning** here as-well in testing Odysseus with the story of how she had moved the bed that he had built for them.
- Finally we experience her **joy** at realising her husband has returned, once he reveals the **'infallible proof'** she requires in his revealing the secret of how he constructed the bed.

Odysseus:

- Odysseus has already met with and spoken with Penelope, but in disguise. This is the first time in 20 years that he has experience his wife as his true self.
- He demonstrates great **understanding** towards Penelope's caution in accepting him and tells Telemachus to allow her to test him.
- He does demonstrate some **frustration** in stating that **'my wife's heart is as hard as iron'** and this develops into **anger** at the thought that she has somehow moved the bed which he constructed for them.
- This anger subsides to **joy** once he realises the nature of the test and is in the knowledge that his wife has accepted he has returned.

**Sample intro:** The scene in which Penelope and Odysseus reunite allows Homer to demonstrate his great insight into human emotions. He does this by portraying the very human and relatable reactions of Telemachus, Penelope and Odysseus in the scene.

**Sample closing:** In such a short scene Homer has managed to present a variety of human emotions. It is through his depictions of the developing emotions of the three characters that Homer shows his great insight into human emotion in the scene.



## Eumaeus

**2014:** Analyse the part played by the swineherd Eumaeus in the *Odyssey*. (35)

*Eumaeus is an important character in the Odyssey for several reasons. Firstly he is the stellar representation of loyalty and demonstrates the virtues and merits of good hospitality. He is also vital to the plot of the epic poem, particularly to build up to the final battle with the suitors in the hall. Homer implies the status with which he holds Eumaeus by speaking to him directly in the text.*

### **Hospitality:**

- Hospitality is a central theme in the text and Homer uses Eumaeus as a character that abides by the sacred rules.
- In this way Eumaeus can be viewed as an example of how Homer distinguishes good characters from bad characters through their delivery of either good or bad hospitality.
- His treatment of the ‘**beggar**’ Odysseus exemplifies his positive virtues and allows the reader to identify him as a good character.
- For example, Eumaeus offers the disguised Odysseus a seat and food and later in the evening provides him with a blanket to keep him warm.
- He provides Odysseus with information on the Suitors and advises him to avoid them for his own safety. He also speaks highly of his master, not knowing that it is Odysseus standing in front of him.
- His position as a positive reflection on hospitality allows Homer to reward him in the end with the return of his master.
- This is in stark contrast to the inhospitable Melanthius who treats the disguised beggar with no regard and even goes as far as to physically assault him. Again, this identifies Melanthius as a bad character and in line with Eumaeus’ reward, he is horrifically punished for his crimes.
- The theme of hospitality is central to the epic and Eumaeus plays a significant part in driving home the idea that those who demonstrate good hospitality are not only good people but that they will be rewarded.



### Loyalty:

- Loyalty and the rewards for such a virtue is another central theme to Homer's epic.
- Eumaeus again embodies this valued virtue and is justly rewarded in the end.
- He is devoutly loyal to both Telemachus and Odysseus. He demonstrates this not only in his high speaking of Odysseus in front of the 'beggar' but also in the sheer joy and relief he shows upon Telemachus returning to Ithaca safely. It is also telling of the standing Eumaeus has in the fact that he is the first person that Telemachus visits upon his return.
- This can once again be paralleled with the disloyalty of Melanthius and even Melanthe who have both sided with the Suitors in their destruction of Odysseus' livelihood. The reader feels that they are justly punished for their disloyalty.
- Eumaeus ultimately shows his loyalty to Odysseus when Odysseus reveals his identity. He is overjoyed at seeing his master return and embraces him lovingly as tears fall from his eyes. In this moment he declares that he will stand alongside Odysseus and Telemachus against the Suitors.
- Eumaeus is ultimately rewarded for his loyalty in the end in not only having his master back and the house rid of the Suitors, but also in gaining an equal status alongside Telemachus and a house and wife as Odysseus had promised.
- ***Loyalty and disloyalty, together with their associated rewards and punishment are central themes to Homer's epic. Similar to his role in the theme of hospitality, Homer uses Eumaeus as the embodiment of the loyal herder. In stark comparison to the Suitors, Melanthius and Melanthe he is justly rewarded for his loyalty, thus driving home this important theme in Homer's epic.***

### Plot:

- Eumaeus is central to the latter plot of the narrative.
- He is introduced once Odysseus has arrived back in Ithaca and is the first mortal character that Odysseus visits and stays with.
- Odysseus' stay with Eumaeus not only serves as a rest period for our hero but more importantly gives Odysseus an opportunity to test the loyalty of Eumaeus and learn more about the state of affairs in Ithaca.
- Eumaeus informs Odysseus about Penelope and the Suitors.
- It is Eumaeus' hut that is the scene of the dramatic reuniting of Telemachus and Odysseus, with Telemachus also choosing to visit Eumaeus first upon his return to Ithaca. This is important not only for the drama and emotion but also because Eumaeus' hut becomes the site of the father and sons plot to destroy the Suitors. It is important to note that Eumaeus is still not aware that Odysseus has returned.
- Athene orchestrated this as she had sent both Odysseus and Telemachus to the loyal swineherd.



- Eumaeus also fights alongside Odysseus, Telemachus and Philotias in the battle against the Suitors, thus helping to bring an end to their tyranny.
- *In terms of the plot in the epic, it is clear that Eumaeus plays an important role. Not only does he provide the disguised Odysseus with a safe place to stay prior to entering the town, but he also provides him with a place to reunite with his son and the information he needs to better plan his revenge against the Suitors. Further to this his loyalty leads him to fight alongside his master in bringing about the destruction of the Suitors and thus ensuring that Odysseus reclaims his kingdom.*



## Telemachus character development

### Books One & Two:

- At the beginning of the *Odyssey*, Telemachus is timid and weak. We first encounter him **‘sitting disconsolate among the suitors.’** The suitors view Telemachus as weak and have no respect for him. It is clear that Telemachus longs for the return of his father, Odysseus, while the Suitors continue **‘living free off another man.’**
- It is Athene who guides Telemachus towards maturity. She sets into play the circumstances that will allow him to develop into a suitable support for Odysseus in his battle against the suitors. She appears to him disguised as Mentos and instructs him to put **‘childish thoughts away’** and challenges him to **‘be as brave as Orestes.’** Orestes had avenged his father Agamemnon by killing his mother Clytemnestra. This story is used by Athene and other characters to set a standard for Telemachus to live up to. Although he is immature, Telemachus does show some level of promise in demonstrating great hospitality to the disguised Athene.
- Athene had told Telemachus that he must call for an Assembly and announce that the Suitors are to leave Ithaca. She also tells him to undertake a journey in order to try to learn about the fate of Odysseus. At the meal in the dining hall Penelope requests the bard not sing of Troy but Telemachus, after Athene having implanted **‘daring and spirit into him’**, rebukes her and tells her to return to her room. Penelope is **‘taken aback’** by his words but is glad to see him maturing.
- In Book 2, under the inspiration of Athene, Telemachus calls an Assembly of the Suitors to demand that they leave his house. He declares that he will **‘destroy’** if they don’t and the Suitors are **‘amazed by his words.’** However, Telemachus’ immaturity rears its head as his emotions overwhelm him. He suddenly **‘bursts with tears’** and flings his staff to the ground before leaving the podium.

### Book Three: Pylos (Nestor):

- Telemachus still requires Athene’s guidance. She tells him he must travel to Pylos and Sparta to learn more about his father.
- Telemachus tells Eurycleia, the loyal maidservant, of his intention to leave but asks her not to tell Penelope until twelve days have passed. He fears that were Penelope to learn of his journey she would try to prevent him going and that he would not be able to refuse. This suggests that Penelope is holding back his development.
- Athene, in the meantime, has disguised herself as Telemachus and organises the ship and the crew for the journey to Pylos. She then accompanies him on the first leg of the journey, disguised as Mentor.
- Upon arriving at Pylos, Telemachus is incredibly reserved, and Athene leads the party. This is in contrast to the similarly aged son of Nestor, Peisistratus who greets them.
- Telemachus does demonstrate some maturity when asking about Odysseus and requesting that Nestor does not soften his **‘his account out of pity’** for Telemachus.



- The Orestes story is brought up once again as Nestor refers to him as **‘that brave youth’** and then challenges Telemachus to **‘be as brave as Orestes.’**
- One contributing factor to his development begins here with references to similarities between Telemachus and his father. Nestor tells Telemachus that **‘you talk exactly as he did’.**
- Ultimately, however, Nestor has no information on Odysseus but advises Telemachus to visit Menelaus in Sparta. He sends his son Peisistratus to support Telemachus on the journey, which gives Telemachus another example to live up to. Before departing the next morning Athene leaves Telemachus to his journey, taking the form of an eagle to depart the island thus giving Telemachus reassurance that a God is on his side.

### **Book 4 & Book 15: Sparta (Menelaus)**

- Telemachus and Peisistratus arrive in Sparta, but it is Peisistratus who takes the lead as Telemachus shies away. Peisistratus dismissed Telemachus whispering as modesty.
- During their conversation Menelaus begins to tell of Odysseus which moves Telemachus to tears. Menelaus recognises this and begins to assert his assumption that Telemachus is Odysseus’ son.
- Helen confirms this by making a **physical association between Odysseus and Telemachus, ‘surely this must be great hearted Odysseus’ son’.** This coupled with Menelaus’ stories of Odysseus boost Telemachus’ confidence.
- Menelaus reveals that he heard from Proteas that Odysseus was being held captive by Calypso.
- In Book 15 Athene arrives in Sparta to tell Telemachus he must return to Ithaca. She warns him of the ambush planned by the Suitors and instructs him to go straight to the hut of Eumaeus. By the end of his visit to Sparta we see a stark contrast between the Telemachus at the beginning and the end of the epic. He is now eager to return home and demonstrates his growing maturity by requesting that Menelaus only give him practical gifts that he can carry with him on his journey home.
- He further demonstrates his growing independence and ability to make decisions by asking Peisistratus to forgive him for not returning to Nestor’s palace before embarking on the journey home. He explains that he does not have the time to be held up any further by Nestor’s hospitality. This displays an assured and sensible aspect to his developing character.



### Book 15 & 16: Journey home & reuniting

- The development of Telemachus is clear as he prepares for the journey back to Ithaca. In contrast to the start of the journey, Athene is not the one to prepare the ship and crew, Telemachus is. He gives the commands to the men who, **‘leap to his orders.’**
- Telemachus makes the decision to take Theoclymenus on board ensures his safety by entrusting him to Pireaus upon their arrival to Ithaca.
- Athene still plays a role in terms of the warnings she had given Telemachus in relation to the Suitors, however, it is clear that she has taken a step back in order to allow Telemachus flourish.
- Upon his return to Ithaca the **‘sensible Telemachus’** visits Eumaeus hut and in Book 16 Athene orchestrates the dramatic reuniting of Odysseus and Telemachus. This is a pivotal moment in Telemachus’ character development as the journey has now come full circle and he has his father by his side.
- Father and son plot the downfall of the Suitors together.

### Book 17-22: Restraint

- These books demonstrate Telemachus’ growth into manhood as he is able to restrain himself on the numerous occasions in which Odysseus is insulted and assaulted in his own home. This is in contrast to the emotional youth who bursts into tears in Book 2.
- When Antinous assaults Odysseus with the stool he controls his anger and even asserts himself in front of the Suitors in declaring that **‘I am the host.’**
- The Suitors themselves are amazed by Telemachus newfound confidence.
- **\*Reference notes for further examples\***
- We also witness a change in his attitude towards his mother when he declares that he is **‘not the child I was.’** Penelope too is now taking notice of the change in her son. *Reference the Penelope/Telemachus notes.*
- From a physical standpoint we also see in Book 21 that Telemachus comes close to stringing the bow before Odysseus signals him to stop. The Suitors themselves are amazed by the skill in which he shows by lining up the axes so neatly.





## Book 22: Battle

- By this stage it is clear the Telemachus has become a suitable support for his father in their battle against the Suitors. He displays great bravery and skill in his fighting. We learn that he kills Amphimedon, as had been fated.
- During the battle he makes a mistake in leaving the weapons store unlocked, giving the Suitors access to the weapons. However, we once again see his maturity in owning up to the error and declaring that **‘the mistake was mine.’**
- After the battle he goes against Odysseus’ orders and has the maidservants hanged instead of stabbed, demonstrating his ability to make his own decisions.
- He also shows his newfound assertiveness in rebuking Penelope for not accepting Odysseus has returned, **‘your heart was always harder than flint’**

## Structure:

- If the question related to how he developed it is straightforward to plan as follows;
  - **Pt:** Role of Athene: Give the examples of how she helps
  - **Pt:** Example of others: Orestes and Peisistratus
  - **Pt:** Journey: Having to take control, learning of his father, meeting great heroes, comparisons with father.
  - **Pt:** Reuniting with Odysseus
- 
- If the question related to account for his development to becoming a suitable support;
  - Focus on things chronologically;
  - **Pt: Book’s 1 and 2;** Athene
  - **Pt: Book’s 3 and 4;** Journey
  - **Pt: Book’s 15 and 16;** Journey home and reuniting
  - **Pt: Book’s 17 to 22;** Evidence of change and fighting the Suitors.



## Hospitality & Gift Giving

### Important

- Zeus enforces the rules of hospitality. Any abuse of these rules is deemed an insult to the Gods. Mortals are expected to assume that a guest may be a God in disguise and so treat them with the utmost hospitality. Anyone who demonstrates poor hospitality should expect to be punished.

### General Rules:

- All guests must be welcomed.
- Guests are to be allowed eat first and then questioned.
- Guests should be offered to opportunity to bathe.
- Guests should not overstay their welcome.
- A host should not hold their guest against their will or for longer than they want.
- Guests should be given gifts, to reflect their importance, upon leaving. The more exalted the giver/maker of the gift, the more valuable it is. Gifts are then taken home and stored to display to new guests. They may be passed on to worthy future guests.

### Menelaus & Nestor:

- **Book 3:** Telemachus travels to Pylos, the home of King Nestor to learn of the fate of his father. Telemachus is immediately welcomed and brought to a feast. It is not until after the feast that questions are posed to Telemachus. **Nestor, as a result of his hospitality is clearly identifiable as a good character.** Nestor insists that his son Peisistratus accompanies Telemachus on the second leg of his journey to Sparta, another good example of hospitality.
- **Book 4:** Telemachus and Peisistratus are again treated well by their host Menelaus, King of Sparta. When Telemachus becomes upset, Menelaus notices and stops the bard telling the story of Troy. Further to this Helen actually slips a drug into their drinks in order to calm their upset. Upon leaving Menelaus bestows gifts on Telemachus, who had requested gifts that he could carry with him and not anything impractical, **an indicator of Telemachus' growing maturity.**



### Phaeacians:

- Overall, the Phaeacians demonstrates great hospitality towards Odysseus, although there are examples to the contrary. For example, in Book 7, Athene disguised as a little girl, warns Odysseus that the people may harass him on his journey to Alcinous' palace and so shrouds him in a protective mist. When Odysseus arrives at the palace, Alcinous actually has to be reminded of his obligations to his guest before offering him hospitality. Another example of treating their guest poorly is at the games when Euryalus insults and challenges the weary Odysseus to take part. This is an unacceptable way to treat a guest and as a result Euryalus is forced to apologise and present Odysseus with a gift. **Poor hospitality merits punishment.**
- However, in all, the Phaeacians are very hospitable. Nausicaa advises him of how to get to the city and provides him with clothing. Following his appeal to Arete, Alcinous holds a feast in Odysseus' honour and agrees to facilitate his return home. All of this is despite not yet having been told Odysseus' name/ Alcinous calls for the games to take place having noticed Odysseus getting upset during the retelling of the story of Troy. Further to this, the Phaeacians, much to Odysseus' delight ply him with gifts prior to his departure. The significance of these gifts is such that upon landing in Ithaca they are Odysseus' primary concern.
- Interestingly, despite the Phaeacians excellent hospitality, they are punished for it. Poseidon appeals to Zeus to allow him to punish them for offering hospitality to his nemesis Odysseus. Zeus agrees and Poseidon subsequently turns the returning ship to a rock that sinks to the bottom of the sea. This is to serve as a warning to the Phaeacians not to accommodate their guests in such a way going forward. The message is clear that **the rules of hospitality are to be abided by mortals only when it is convenient for the Gods.**

### Suitors:

- The Suitors are the embodiment of poor hospitality from the point of view of both guests and hosts.
- **As guests**, they have overstayed their welcome in the palace of Odysseus (3 years) and have slept with his maids, disrespected his household, diminished his supplies, courted his wife and plotted to kill his son. **All 108 are suitably punished for this.**
- **As hosts in Odysseus' palace**, overall, they demonstrate poor hospitality. They force the fight between the disguised Odysseus and Irus, for their own personal amusement. Eurymachus and Antinous are particularly abhorrent in their actions to the disguised Odysseus. He is verbally abused and physically assaulted by his 'hosts'. However, that is not to say that they all agree with the actions. In Book 17, Antinous assaults Odysseus with a stool, an act that even the suitors are disgusted by. Although reluctant in Book 17, all of the Suitors but Antinous do actually give Odysseus food.



- It is important to note here that it is the Gods that oversee their punishment here. The case built against them essentially lies in their failure to act as appropriate guests and hosts. This gains them the anger of Athene, who's actions are approved by Zeus.

### Polyphemus:

- An excellent example of poor hospitality
- **Refer to the notes on the Cyclops episode.**
- Odysseus tries to claim hospitality and gifts, as is the custom with hospitality.
- Polyphemus refuses on the grounds that he does not fear the gods
- Holds Odysseus and his men against their will and eats some of them.
- **He is punished for this.**

### Eumaeus:

- Clearly identifiable as a good character given his excellent hospitality towards the disguised Odysseus.
- **Refer to the Eumaeus question.**

### Calypso & Circe:

- Both demonstrate different levels of hospitality towards Odysseus.
- **Refer to the notes on Odysseus' relationship with both goddesses.**
- **One of the key points to note is that the hospitality of both lead to him being delayed for a combined count of 8 years.**

### Telemachus:

- Hospitality is not only used to identify him as a good character but also to demonstrate his continued development throughout the narrative.
- His development is mainly seen in his role as a guest, with Nestor and Menelaus.
- However, he is also the victim of unruly guests, the Suitors.
- Look here towards his actions as the host of Mentos, Mentor (both Athene in disguise – which he is acutely aware of), as well as his treatment of Theoclymenus and the disguised Odysseus.
- **Refer to Telemachus character development question.**



### Gift Giving:

- Gift giving is central to the plot as Odysseus' love of them causes delays and loss of life.
- **Cyclops:** Despite his men's pleas he stays to receive gifts and it results in deaths.
- **Aeolus:** The gift of the bag of wind that is designed to help him get home actually results in them ending up further from home.
- **Phaeacians:** Demonstrates Odysseus' clear love of gifts as he actually states that he would stay a year longer were he to receive more gifts.

### 'Not wanting to miss a thing':

- This line was used in a question to Odysseus' love of gifts.
- However, it allows you to expand the question further and explore his curiosity and piracy.
- Essentially you are looking at all of his stops and why he stopped there.
- **(1) Cicones:** piracy – lose six men per ship
- **(2) Lotus Eaters:** Has to save his men from effects of plant
- **(3) Cyclops:** Had to urge to explore despite knowing danger and stayed to receive gifts.
- **(4) Aeolus:** Receives the wind
- **(5) Laestrygonians:** Land here due to lack of wind. All but Odysseus' ship is destroyed
- **(6) Circe:** After an initial bad start stays for a year.
- **(7) Hades:** Meet Tiresias and gain advice. Lingers in order to question those he meets, e.g. Achilles, Agamemnon, Anticleia, etc. Then returns to Circe.
- **(8) Sirens:** Sails past being the only one to hear their voices.
- **(9) Scylla & Charybdis:** An unavoidable danger.
- **(10) Hyperion's Cattle:** Avoidable and not to do with curiosity. This is the point at which Odysseus is weakest and relents to his men's request to stop on the island.



**Structure for question on hospitality/gift giving:**

- Give a brief introduction highlighting the general importance of hospitality and gift giving. Also, highlight your basic understanding of the rules.
- **Pt:** Helps to distinguish good characters; Phaeacians, Nestor, Menelaus, Telemachus, Eumaeus, Nausicaa
- **Pt:** Helps to distinguish bad characters; Polyphemus, Suitors, Laestrygonians
- **Pt:** Central to the plot: Circe and Calypso causes 8-year delay, Polyphemus results in Poseidon's anger, bag of wind results in delay, justifies the deaths of the Suitors. **Could easily be two points.**
- **Pt:** Central to themes. ***Can be linked to good/bad character identification.*** Essentially, in terms of love, justice, loyalty, disloyalty, etc – hospitality/ gift giving helps us to distinguish who deserves punishment and who deserves reward.

