PRIFYSGOL CYMRU: UNIVERSITY OF WALES

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS 2008

LAMPETER

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

3CLA3720: Epic [20 credits]

Time allowed: 2 hours

Answer both section A and section B. Both sections are of equal value.

Candidates should ensure that they avoid repetition of material in their answers to different sections.

Please make sure that your exam paper is for the appropriate level. This exam is for third year students only.

SECTION A: gobbets (50 marks)

Answer all three questions. Each question will give you two options. You need to write **three** gobbets in total: **one** on Homer's *Iliad*, **one** on Apollonius Rhodius' *Argonautica*, and **one** on Vergil's *Aeneid*.

1. Comment on the context and content of **one** of the following passages.

EITHER

a.

'These all assembling into the house of Zeus cloud gathering / took places among the smooth-stone cloister walks with Hephaistos / had built for Zeus the father by his craftsmanship and contrivance. / So they were assembled with Zeus' house; and the shaker / of the earth did not fail to hear the goddess, but came up among them / from the sea, and sat in the midst of them, and asked Zeus of his counsel: / "Why, lord of the shining bolt, have you called the gods to assembly / once more? Are you deliberating Achaians and Trojans? / For the onset of battle is almost broken to flame between them." / In turn Zeus who gathers the cloud spoke to him in answer: / "You have seen, shaker of the earth, the counsel within me, / and why I gathered you. I think of these men though they are dying. / Even so, I shall stay here upon the fold of Olympos / sitting still, watching, to pleasure my heart. Meanwhile all you others / go down, whenever you may go among the Achaians and Trojans / and give help to either side, as your own pleasure directs you. / For if we leave Achilles alone to fight with the Trojans / they will not even for a little hold off swift-footed Peleion. / For even before now they would tremble whenever they saw him, / and now, when the heart is grieved and angered for his companion's / death, I fear against destiny he may storm their fortress." So spoke the son of Kronos and woke incessant battle, / and the gods went down to enter the fighting, with purposes opposed.'

OR

b.

'Raging at the Trojans / he put on the gifts on the god, that Hephaistos wrought him with much toil. / First he placed along his legs the fair greaves linked with / silver fastenings to hold the greaves at the ankles. / Afterwards he girt on about his chest the corselet, / and across his shoulders slung the sword with the nails of silver, / a bronze sword, and caught up the great shield, huge and heavy, / and from it the light glimmered far, as from the moon, / As when from across water a light shines to mariners / from a blazing fire, when the fire is burning high in the mountains / in a desolate steading, as the mariners are carried unwillingly / by storm winds over the fish-swarming sea, far away from their loved ones; / so the light from the fair elaborate shield of Achilleus / shot into high air. And lifting the helm he set it / massive upon his head, and the helmet crested with horse-hair / shone like a star, and the golden fringes were shaken about it / which Hephaistos had driven close along the horn of the helmet. / And brilliant Achilleus tried himself in his armour, to see / if it fitted close, and how his glorious limbs ran with it, / and the armour became as wings and upheld the shepherd of the people, / Next he pulled out from its standing place the spear of his father, / huge, heavy, think, which no one else of all the Achaians / could handle, but Achilleus alone knew how to wield it, / the Pelian ash spear which Cheiron had bought to his father / from high on Pelion, to be death for fighters in battle.'

2. Comment on the context and content of **one** of the following passages.

EITHER

a.

'In return for your help I shall show my gratitude to you in the future, as is right and appropriate for those who live a long way away, by spreading your name and your glorious repute. So also the other heroes will sing your praises on their return to Hellas, as will the heroes' wives and mothers, who now no doubt sit on the sea-shore and mourn for us; it is in your power to scatter their bitter pains. Once upon a time another kindly maiden, Ariadne, daughter of Minos, rescued Theseus from terrible challenges; her mother was Pasiphae, daughter of Helios. When Minos' anger had soothed, she embarked upon Theseus' ship and left her homeland; the very immortals loved her, and as her sign in the middle of the sky a crown of stars, which men call 'Ariadne's Crown', revolves all night long among the heavenly constellations. Thus will the gods show gratitude to you also, if you save so great an expedition of heroic men; and to judge from your appearance I would guess that your character is both gentle and kindly.' Such were his flattering words. She turned her eyes aside and smiled a heavenly sweet smile; her heart melted as she soared in his praise, and she looked directly into his face.'

OR

b.

'and if you wish to know the reason for the expedition, I shall not conceal it from you. This man has been sent here on a hopeless quest by someone, a king, who wishes to thrust him out of his homeland and his possessions, because his courage far surpasses that of all the other descendants of Aiolos. He claims that the family of the Aiolidai will not escape from the bitter wrath of implacable Zeus, from his anger and from the appalling pollution and punishment arising from Phrixos until the fleece comes to Hellas. Their ship was built by Athena Pallas, and it is nothing like the ships which the Colchians have: the worst of all was ours which was completely broken apart by the violence of water and wind. Their ship, on the other hand, holds firm in its bolts, even if storm winds from every direction should assault it. It runs equally well before the wind and when the crew ply their oars with the vigorous strength of their arms. Collecting in it all the best heroes of the whole Achaian land, he has come to your city, after wandering to many cities and over great stretches of the grim sea, in the hope that you will grant him the fleece. However, you decide, so shall it be. He has not come to use violent force, but wishes to pay fair recompense for the gift; I have told him of the Sauromatai who are such a hostile threat to you, and he will subdue them to your control. If, as is no doubt the case, you desire to learn of the names and lineage of these men, I shall inform you in every particular. This man, for whose sake all the others gathered for the expedition from Hellas, is called Jason, son of Aison the son of Kretheus; if indeed he is a descendant of Kretheus, then he is related to us through our father.'

3. Comment on the context and content of **one** of the following passages.

EITHER

a.

'I sing of the arms and of the man, fated to be an exile, who long since left the land of Troy and came to Italy to the shores of Lavinium; and a great pounding he took by land and sea at the hands of the heavenly gods because of the fierce and unforgetting anger of Juno. Great too were his sufferings in war before he could found his city and carry his gods into Latium. This was the beginning of the Latin race, the Alban fathers and the high walls of Rome. Tell me, Muse, the causes of her anger. How did he violate the will of the Queen of the Gods? What was his offence? Why did she drive a man famous for his piety to such endless hardship and such suffering? Can there be such anger in the hearts of the heavenly gods? There was a city held by the colonists from Tyre, opposite Italy and the distant mouth of the river Tiber. It was a city of great wealth and ruthless in the pursuit of war. Its name was Carthage, and Juno is said to have loved it more than any other place, more even than Samos.'

OR

b.

'He who devised mankind and all the world smiled and replied: 'You are the true sister of Jupiter and the second child of Saturn, such waves of anger do you set rolling from deep in your heart. But come now, lay aside this fury that arose in vain. I grant what you wish. I yield. I relent of my own free will. The people of Ausonia will keep the tongue of their fathers and their ancient ways. As their name is, so shall it remain. The Trojans will join them in body only and will then be submerged. Ritual I will give and the modes of worship, and I shall make them all Latin, speaking one tongue. You will see that the people who arise from this admixture of Ausonian blood will be above all men, above the gods, in devotion and no other race will be their equals in paying you honour.' Juno nodded in assent. She rejoiced and forced her mind to change, leaving the cloud behind her and withdrawing from the sky.'

SECTION B: essay (50 marks)

Answer **one** question.

1. Analyse to what extent Aeneas is a typically Roman hero.

2. Analyse the importance of *Aeneid* book 6.

3. Analyse the variety of narrative techniques used by Vergil in his portrayal of Dido and Aeneas in book 4 of the *Aeneid*.

4. Compare and contrast the portrayal of Heracles / Hercules in the *Argonautica* and the *Aeneid*.

5. Analyse, compare and contrast the endings of the *Iliad*, *Argonautica* and *Aeneid*.