

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2021

ENGLISH

(One and a half hours)

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

You must answer all questions.

For questions 1 and 2, you are advised to spend about ten minutes reading the poem before answering the questions.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

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Questions 1 and 2: Literary Analysis

Read the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) and answer the questions that follow.

Ulysses

It little profits that an idle king,
By this still hearth, among these barren crags,
Matched with an aged wife, I mete and dole
Unequal laws unto a savage race,
That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me. 5
I cannot rest from travel: I will drink
Life to the lees. All times I have enjoyed
Greatly, have suffered greatly, both with those
That loved me, and alone, on shore, and when
Thro' scudding drifts the rainy Hyades 10
Vexed the dim sea: I am become a name;
For always roaming with a hungry heart
Much have I seen and known; cities of men
And manners, climates, councils, governments,
Myself not least, but honoured of them all; 15
And drunk delight of battle with my peers,
Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.
I am a part of all that I have met;
Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough
Gleams that untravelled world whose margin fades 20
For ever and for ever when I move.
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use!
As though to breathe were life! Life piled on life
Were all too little, and of one to me 25
Little remains: but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence, something more,
A bringer of new things; and vile it were
For some three suns to store and hoard myself,
And this gray spirit yearning in desire 30
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.

This is my son, mine own Telemachus,
To whom I leave the sceptre and the isle, —
Well-loved of me, discerning to fulfil 35
This labour, by slow prudence to make mild
A rugged people, and thro' soft degrees
Subdue them to the useful and the good.
Most blameless is he, centred in the sphere
Of common duties, decent not to fail 40
In offices of tenderness, and pay
Meet adoration to my household gods,
When I am gone. He works his work, I mine.

There lies the port; the vessel puffs her sail:
There gloom the dark, broad seas. My mariners, 45
Souls that have toiled, and wrought, and thought with me —
That ever with a frolic welcome took
The thunder and the sunshine, and opposed
Free hearts, free foreheads—you and I are old;
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil; 50
Death closes all: but something ere the end,
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.
The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks:
The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep 55
Moans round with many voices. Come, my friends,
'T is not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths 60
Of all the western stars, until I die.
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.
Though much is taken, much abides; and though 65
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield. 70

1.

a) Paraphrase (write in your own words, in modern prose) lines **1-11**.

[10]

b) Considering the poem as a whole, what do we learn about the speaker's personality? Remember to give evidence to support your answer.

[15]

2.

a) Paraphrase (write in your own words, in modern prose) lines **33-43**.

[10]

b) Considering the poem as a whole, how does poet make the descriptions of the setting striking and vivid? Remember to give evidence to support your answer.

[15]

TOTAL MARKS FOR QUESTIONS 1 AND 2: 50

Source 1



Source 2



Source 3



Source 4

Question 3: General

IMPORTANT: Begin this question on a new sheet of paper.

This question does not assume and its assessment will not reward additional knowledge of the statues which appear on the preceding page.

3.

Look carefully at the images in Sources 1 - 4 on the preceding page.

a) Choose which ONE statue you consider most inspiring and which ONE you consider to be least so, explaining your reasoning by close reference to the two images you have selected.

[5]

b) You are in discussion with a friend who argues that when heroes achieve their exploits, there is very often a price to be paid. What would your response be to this contention? Illustrate your answer with examples.

[8]

c) It is often observed that each generation finds the heroes admired by previous generations to be flawed, or even repugnant. How far do you feel this is inevitable? In your answer make reference to individual 'heroes' (whether historical figures or literary characters).

[12]

TOTAL MARKS FOR QUESTION 3: 25

END OF PAPER