

Practice midterm!

- 1) This is the first thing that the goddesses said to me, **25** the Olympian Muses, daughters of aegis-bearing Zeus: “Shepherds abiding in the fields, base objects of reproach, mere bellies! We know how to say many false things that are just like real things [*etuma*]. But we know also, whenever we are willing, how to announce things that are *alêthea*.” Thus spoke the daughters of great Zeus, they whose words fit together. **30** And they gave me a sceptre [*skêptron*], a shoot of thriving laurel, having plucked it. It was a sight to behold. And they breathed into me a voice that is divine, so that I could give *kleos* to the things that will be and the things that have been. And they called on me to sing about the *genos* of the blessed ones, who have always been, but to sing always of them [the Muses] both first and last [in the performance].
- 2) “_____, you can choose some other time for paying your visit to Okeanos—for the present let us devote ourselves to love and to the enjoyment of one another. Never yet have I been so overpowered by passion neither for goddess nor mortal woman as I am at this moment for yourself—not even when I was in love with the wife of Ixion who bore me Peirithoos, peer of gods in counsel, nor yet with Danae the daintily-ankle daughter of Acrisius, who bore me the famed hero Perseus. Then there was the daughter of Phoenix, who bore me Minos and Rhadamanthus: there was Semele, and Alkmene in Thebes by whom I begot my lion-hearted son Herakles, while Semele became mother to Dionysos the comforter of mankind. There was queen Demeter again, and lovely Leto, and yourself—but with none of these was I ever so much enamoured as I now am with you.”
- 3) And the sweet song of the flute mixed...
And the sound of the cymbals, and then the maidens
sang in clear tones a sacred song
and a divinely-sweet echo reached the sky...
And everywhere through the streets...
Mixing bowls and cups...
And myrrh and cassia and frankincense were mingled.
And the older women wailed aloud.
And all the men gave forth a high-pitched song,
calling on Apollo, the far-shooter, skilled in the lyre.
And they sang of Hektor and Andromakhe like to the gods.
- 4) [487] “And the goddess answered, ‘_____, noble son of Laertes, you shall none of you stay here any longer if you do not want to, but there is another journey which you have got to take before you can sail homewards. You must go to the house of Hades and of dread Persephone to consult the ghost [*psukhê*] of the blind Theban prophet [*mantis*] Teiresias whose thinking [*noos*] is still in place. To him alone has Persephone left his consciousness [*phrenes*] even in death, but the other ghosts flit about aimlessly.’

- 5) “My dear child, I am sure you must be Odysseus himself, only I did not know you till I had actually touched and handled you.” As she spoke she looked towards Penelope, as though wanting to tell her that her dear husband was in the house, but Penelope was unable to look in that direction and observe what was going on, for Athena had diverted her attention [*noos*]; so Odysseus caught _____ by the throat with his right hand and with his left drew her close to him, and said, “Nurse, do you wish to be the ruin of me, you who nursed me at your own breast, now that after twenty years of wandering I am at last come to my own home again? ? Since it has been borne in upon you by heaven to recognize me, hold your tongue, and do not say a word about it any one else in the house
- 6) If the gods spare me to return home, Peleus will find me a wife; there are Achaean women in Hellas and Phthia, daughters of kings that have cities under them; of these I can take whom I will and marry her. Many a time was I minded when at home in Phthia to woo and wed a woman who would make me a suitable wife, and to enjoy the riches of my old father Peleus. My life [*psukhê*] is more to me than all the wealth of Ilion while it was yet at peace before the Achaeans went there, or than all the treasure that lies on the stone floor of Apollo’s temple beneath the cliffs of Pytho. Cattle and sheep are to be had by raiding, and a man can buy both tripods and horses if he wants them, but when his life [*psukhê*] has once left him it can neither be bought nor raided back again.
- 7) “Father Zeus,” he cried, “and all you other blessed gods who live for ever, come here and see the ridiculous and disgraceful sight that I will show you. Zeus’ daughter Aphrodite is always dishonoring me because I am lame. She is in love with Ares, who is handsome and clean built, whereas I am a cripple—but my parents are responsible [*aitioi*] for that, not I; they ought never to have begotten me. Come and see the pair together asleep on my bed. It makes me furious to look at them. They are very fond of one another, but I do not think they will lie there longer than they can help, nor do I think that they will sleep much; there, however, they shall stay till her father has repaid me the sum I gave him for his baggage of a daughter, who is fair but not honest.”