

\* 請在答案卷內作答

Please answer TWO of the following questions in English. (100%)

## Question 1 (50%)

The following excerpt is taken from Homer's *Odyssey*. In Book V, Odysseus is the only mortal in Calypso's island. Please read the passage carefully and give a critical analysis of it.

And the guide and giant-killer reinforced her words:  
"Release him at once, just so. Steer clear of the rage of Zeus!  
Or down the years he'll fume and make your life a hell."

With that the powerful giant-killer sped away.  
The queenly nymph sought out the great Odysseus—  
the commands of Zeus still ringing in her ears—  
and found him there on the headland, sitting, still,  
weeping, his eyes never dry, his sweet life flowing away  
with the tears he wept for his foiled journey home,  
since the nymph no longer pleased. In the nights, true,  
he'd sleep with her in the arching cave—he had no choice—  
unwilling lover alongside lover all too willing . . .

But all his days he'd sit on the rocks and beaches,  
wrenching his heart with sobs and groans and anguish,  
gazing out over the barren sea through blinding tears.  
So coming up to him now, the lustrous goddess ventured,  
"No need, my unlucky one, to grieve here any longer,  
no, don't waste your life away. Now I am willing,  
heart and soul, to send you off at last. Come,  
take bronze tools, cut your lengthy timbers,  
make them into a broad-beamed raft  
and top it off with a half-deck high enough  
to sweep you free and clear on the misty seas.

And I myself will stock her with food and water,  
ruddy wine to your taste—all to stave off hunger—  
give you clothing, send you a stiff following wind  
so you can reach your native country all unharmed.  
If only the gods are willing. They rule the vaulting skies.  
They're stronger than I to plan and drive things home."

Long-enduring Odysseus shuddered at that  
and broke out in a sharp flight of protest.  
"Passage home? Never. Surely you're plotting  
something else, goddess, urging me—in a raft—  
to cross the ocean's mighty gulfs. So vast, so full  
of danger not even deep-sea ships can make it through,  
swift as they are and buoyed up by the winds of Zeus himself.  
I won't set foot on a raft until you show good faith,  
until you consent to swear, goddess, a binding oath  
you'll never plot some new intrigue to harm me!"

He was so intense the lustrous goddess smiled,  
stroked him with her hand, savored his name and chided,  
"Ah what a wicked man you are, and never at a loss.  
What a thing to imagine, what a thing to say!  
Earth be my witness now, the vaulting Sky above  
and the dark cascading waters of the Styx—I swear  
by the greatest, grimmest oath that binds the happy gods:  
I will never plot some new intrigue to harm you.  
Never. All I have in mind and devise for you  
are the very plans I'd fashion for myself

if I were in your straits. My every impulse  
bends to what is right. Not iron, trust me,  
the heart within *my* breast. I am all compassion."

And lustrous Calypso quickly led the way  
as he followed in the footsteps of the goddess.  
They reached the arching cavern, man and god as one,  
and Odysseus took the seat that Hermes just left,  
while the nymph set out before him every kind  
of food and drink that mortal men will take.  
Calypso sat down face-to-face with the king  
and the women served her nectar and ambrosia.  
They reached out for the good things that lay at hand  
and when they'd had their fill of food and drink  
the lustrous one took up a new approach. "So then,  
royal son of Laertes, Odysseus, man of exploits,  
still eager to leave at once and hurry back  
to your own home, your beloved native land?  
Good luck to you, even so. Farewell!  
But if you only knew, down deep, what pains  
are fated to fill your cup before you reach that shore,  
you'd stay right here, preside in our house with me  
and be immortal. Much as you long to see your wife,  
the one you pine for all your days . . . and yet  
I just might claim to be nothing less than she,  
neither in face nor figure. Hardly right, is it,  
for mortal woman to rival immortal goddess?  
How, in build? in beauty?"

"Ah great goddess,"  
worldly Odysseus answered, "don't be angry with me,  
please. All that you say is true, how well I know.  
Look at my wise Penelope. She falls far short of you,  
your beauty, stature. She is mortal after all  
and you, you never age or die . . .  
Nevertheless I long—I pine, all my days—  
to travel home and see the dawn of my return.  
And if a god will wreck me yet again on the wine-dark sea,  
I can bear that too, with a spirit tempered to endure.  
Much have I suffered, labored long and hard by now  
in the waves and wars. Add this to the total—  
bring the trial on!"

Even as he spoke  
the sun set and the darkness swept the earth.  
And now, withdrawing into the cavern's deep recesses,  
long in each other's arms they lost themselves in love.

注意：背面有試題

(continued on next page)

參考用

