



Old Western Culture

A Christian Approach to the Great Books

Year 1: The Greeks

Unit 1

The Epics

The Poems of Homer



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA *Video Course*

Exam "A"

Please Note: *This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.*

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The Epics Exam "A"

ESSAY QUESTIONS.

1. According to C. S. Lewis, why should we read old books? (10 pt)

2. Why is there an 800 year gap between St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas in most modern Great Books collections? (10 pt)

3. In one sentence, what is the theme of *The Iliad* according to the opening lines of the poem? 10 pt



4. What solution does Paris propose in Book 3 to end the ten year war? (8 pt)

5. When Thetis asked Zeus to make the Achaians lose for a little while, it was a simple request and Zeus said that he would grant it. Why is the fulfillment of his promise so intermittent and sporadic? (12 pt)

6. Why was it so important that Patroklos' body receive a proper burial? (10 pt)

7. How is The Odyssey a "romance", in the old sense of the word? (8 pt)

8. What is the chief characteristic of Odysseus in both The Iliad and The Odyssey? (10 pt)

9. Who is the god of the guest-host relationship, and what is the code of hospitality that we see in Homer? Why do the Cyclops not honor the code of hospitality? (12 pt)

10. What do the Sirens tempt Odysseus with? Why is this fitting? (10 pt)

11. What is the crime of the suitors? (BONUS QUESTION FOR EXTRA CREDIT) (5 pt)

12. How did the arrival of Homer (and Greek learning in general) into Europe contribute to the Reformation? (BONUS QUESTION FOR EXTRA CREDIT) (5 pt)
