



Old Western Culture

*A Christian Approach to the Great Books*

Year 1: The Greeks

Unit 2

**Drama and Lyric**

*The Tragedies, Comedies, and Minor Poems*



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA *Video Course*

*Exam A Answer Key*

**Please Note:** *This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.  
Download the latest revision at [www.RomanRoadsMedia.com](http://www.RomanRoadsMedia.com).*

## NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

### POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points. Two two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

### HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions via “Ask Mr. C” by sending an email to [AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com](mailto:AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com). We may respond by email or by a public video response if we feel this is a question many students would benefit in hearing more about.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.





## HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the daily worksheets. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

## THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, most of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose how to use the extra exam.

## “MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there IS variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor — and should be received as such.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [questions@romanroadsmedia.com](mailto:questions@romanroadsmedia.com). We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!





## Drama and Lyric Exam A Answer Key

### ESSAY QUESTIONS.

1. Where do modern scholars generally believe drama originated? (8 pts.)

*Modern scholars generally believe that drama originated in religious rites and ceremonies to the god Dionysus.*

2. What are the two main types of Greek drama? (8 pts.)

*The two main types of Greek drama are tragedy and comedy.*

3. Which two major events in the 5th century shaped Athenian culture and influenced Greek thought and in particular the Greek playwrights? (8 pts.)

*The Persian Wars (490 and 480 BC) and The Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC)*

4. Explain how the defeat of the Persians in the Persian Wars became the backdrop for Greek drama. (10 pts.)

*The Greeks viewed their defeat of the Persians as a vindication by the gods of their culture and way of life. The peace that followed ushered in the Golden age of Athens, a period marked by confidence and cultural development, especially in the area of drama, which highlighted democracy, trial by jury, and the Greek emphasis on the life of the mind.*

5. What is the real problem addressed throughout the Oresteia trilogy? (10 pts.)

The problem that Aeschylus points to in this trilogy is how to stop the cycle of blood vengeance.

6. What is the real problem that Oedipus the King addresses as revealed in Oedipus' angry argument with Teiresias? (8 pts.)

The problem in Oedipus the King is the problem of pride, as manifested in Oedipus' own pride. (14:30)

7. What are two of the best known "cycles" in Greek mythology and of which cycle do the plays by Sophocles compose a part? (9 pts.)

Two of the best known Greek mythological cycles are the Trojan cycle, and the Theban cycle. The plays by Sophocles compose part of the Theban cycle.

8. Why do the Greeks love Tragedy? (9 pts.)

The Greeks loved Tragedy because it highlighted the tension between man's greatness and brokenness, a tension that often boiled down to the distinction between pride and hubris. In the pre-Christian world, pride itself was considered a virtue, and yet it was the overweening pride of hubris that invariably destroyed great men. Next year, in The Romans, we will study St. Augustine, who argues that pride is the distinguishing mark and foundation of the City of Man.)

9. What was Euripides' purpose in writing *The Trojan Women*? (7 pts.)

Euripides was concerned with the plight of women, a theme that *The Trojan Women* highlights.



10. How were the plays of Aristophanes comparable to those of Gilbert and Sullivan? (6 pts.)

The plays of both authors were satirical commentary on politics, culture, and society at large.

11. What epithet is rumored to have been given to Sappho because she wrote poetry so well? (7 pts.)

Sappho is rumored to have been called "the female Homer."

12. To whom is the material in *The Works and Days* directed? (5 pts.)

The material in *The Works and Days* is directed to Hesiod's brother Perses.

13. Who dealt Achilles his death-blow? (5 pts.)

Apollo struck Achilles in the ankle with an arrow. (*Roman Roads Reader: Drama and Lyric*, pg. 175; *The Fall of Troy*, III.63-97)

14. What does *The Fall of Troy* speak about? (BONUS QUESTION FOR EXTRA CREDIT) (5 pts.)

*The Fall of Troy* speaks about the stretch of time between the end of the Iliad and the beginning of the Odyssey.

15. What period of history does the word "Hellenistic" refer to? (BONUS QUESTION FOR EXTRA CREDIT) (5 pts.)

The Hellenistic Era was the period between Alexander the Great and the fall of the Western Roman Empire.