

Odyssey Test Review

ANSWERS

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS PASSAGE 6

39. (C) concrete details. The scene is set in this paragraph through the many concrete details: “dug the trench a cubit,” “honey and milk, then with wine . . . water . . . white barley meal,” “a black sheep,” “the blood run into the trench,” “brides, young bachelors, old men . . . brave men who had been killed in battle, with their armor still smirched with blood,” “a strange kind of screaming sound.”

40. (C) I and II only. It is clear from the passage that the dead do have to obey the living at times. Odysseus “would not let the . . . ghosts come near.” However, the living appease the dead by sacrificing sheep for them. Elpenor’s words in lines 50-53 imply that he, a dead person, is capable of “bringing heaven’s anger” upon Odysseus.

41. (D) 52-53. Elpenor appeals to Odysseus’ pity and speaks to him respectfully throughout his speech, except in these lines in which he threatens to harm Odysseus if Odysseus does not carry out his wishes.

42. (B) irony. It is ironic that Elpenor characterizes himself as “unlucky” when his death was caused by his own “unspeakable drunkenness” during which he went to sleep on the top of Circe’s house—bad choices rather than bad luck.

43. (E) contact with the sea. The emphasis of Teiresias’ instructions to Odysseus is that he must go to a place where the people have no knowledge whatsoever of the sea. They will not recognize the oar Odysseus is to carry, and they “do not even mix salt with their food” (salt coming from the sea). There is no evidence that the people of this land lack economic prosperity; the only focus is on their ignorance of things related to the sea.

CLASS SET!

44. (A) upon hearing this. The wayfarer Odysseus is to meet will remark that the oar Odysseus is carrying “must be a winnowing shovel.” When Odysseus hears this statement, he is to make the sacrifice to Poseidon.

45. (D) paradox. There is no paradox in the lines. There are examples of simile (“oars that are as the wings of a ship”), conditionals (“if you can restrain yourself,” “If you leave these flocks unharmed”), personification (“the sun, who sees and gives ear”), and alliteration (“high-handed,” “by force or fraud”).

46. (B) Odysseus and his men will not leave the sun’s flocks unharmed. Even though Teiresias phrases his warnings about the sun’s flocks as conditionals, he seems to know that Odysseus will not heed the warning. Lines 95-101 of the prophecy assume that Odysseus alone will escape the island, meaning that his ship and men have been destroyed as a result of their interfering with the flocks belonging to the sun.