

CLA 2323 : GREEK MYTHOLOGY

1st midterm: February 7th, 2012

Total marks: 70 (20% of final grade)

1. Which of the following is among the words used as a widely accepted definition of myth? a. Legendary b. traditional c. etiological d. literary
2. What does the Greek term *aition/etion* mean? a. cause or reason b. folktale c. true myth d. ritual practice
3. In Homer, the word *mythos* refers to: a. a true story b. a strong statement c. a ritual d. a fictional character
4. What is an important element in defining the word "legend"?
 - a. It has a relationship to history
 - b. it must be a product of imagination
 - c. it must contain elements of folktale
 - d. It should contain a high moral content
5. The ancient Greeks of the 5th century BC described themselves as: a. Graikoi b. Achaians c. Hellenes d. Hellenistics e. Aegeans
6. What is the name of a theory that sought to rationalize myths by claiming that the gods were originally powerful humans? a. allegory b. psychoanalysis c. structuralism d. euhemerism
7. One of the following is **NOT true** of the identity of the Greeks:
 - a. They spoke a common language
 - b. They were politically united
 - c. They worshipped the same pantheon of gods
 - d. They participated in religious and athletic festivals
 - e. They consulted the oracles
8. Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides are: a. Epic poets of the Bronze Age b. Dramatic poets of the Hellenistic Period c. Lyric poets of the Archaic Period d. Dramatic poets of the Classical period
9. The major Bronze Age Civilization which was developed on the Mainland of Greece is known as: a. Mycenaean b. Minoan c. Athenian d. Dorian e. Archaic
10. Who questioned the educational value of Hesiod's and Homer's stories? a. Plato b. Aristotle c. Pindar d. Aristophanes e. Ovid

11. The main theme of the *Iliad* is
a. the beginning of the Trojan war b. The story of Troy c. the siege of Troy
d. the anger of Achilles
12. The epic poems of Homer and Hesiod start with
a. an invocation to Mother Earth for prosperity b. an invocation to the Fate for long life
c. an invocation to Zeus for protection **d. an invocation to the Muse for inspiration**
13. The origin of the Hesiodic Creation Myth is most probably:
a. Minoan **b. Near Eastern** c. Indo-European d. Athenian
14. According to the popular view, ancient Greeks imagined the earth as a flat disc encircled by: a. Chaos b. Ouranos **c. Okeanos** d. Sea e. stars
15. Cosmogony means **a. the creation of the universe** b. The study of the universe
c. A story involving tremendous destruction and vast consequences for the humankind
d. a multi-racial place
16. He was the Titan who overthrew his father Ouranos
a. Kronos b. Typhoeus c. Okeanos d. Iapetus
17. One is **NOT** correct about the Furies
a. They torment the murderers of blood relatives b. they were born as the result of castration
c. they determine the time of death d. their brothers are the Giants
18. Which of the following was **NOT** produced by Gaea?
a. Cyclopes **b. Eros** c. Hecatoncheires d. Typhoeus
19. Which two Titans were the parents of the gods known as the Olympians?
a. Okeanos and Tethys b. Hyperion and Theia c. Gaea and Ouranos **d. Kronos and Rhea**
20. They forged Zeus' weapons (lightning bolts and thunder):
a. Cyclopes b. Hecatoncheires c. Giants d. Titans e. Kratos and Nike
21. The 6,000 children of Okeanos and Tethys were:
a. trees b. mountains **c. bodies of water** d. winds
22. Selene was the goddess of the... :
a. night b. dawn c. morning star d. stars **e. moon**
23. One of the things the myth of Eos and Tithonos tries to explain is why...
a. Dawn has a pink color b. the Ethiopians have dark color **c. the cicadas buzz continuously**
d. grasshoppers jump

24. Helios is the god of: a. upper air **b. sun** c. lightness and abundance d. fire
e. universe

25. Much needed help was given to Zeus during the Titanomachy by ...
a. Themis and Thetis **b. the Hecatoncheires and the Cyclopes** c. Mnemosene
and the Muses d. The Curetes and the Nymphs

26. Kronos has **NOT** been connected to one of these
a. The horn of Plenty b. Father Time c. The Grim Reaper d. agriculture

27. The Greek term *hieros gamos* means:
a. the highest order b. a sacred place c. a divine appearance **d. holy union**

28. Of the following, only this deity is NOT one of the first six Olympians
a. Hera b. Demeter **c. Ares** d. Zeus e. Hestia

29. Chthonic means:
a. of the sky b. of the upper air **c. of the earth** d. of the fire

30. In *Theogony*, Tartaros is also described as:
a. a jail in the depths of Earth b. son of Earth c. the underworld river d. all
these

31. “Zeus gave her honor and unequalled gifts: For she was made the great oath of the
gods” Hesiod is talking about: a. Fate b. Victory c. Earth d. Metis **e.
Styx**

32. The Roman name for Kronos:
a. Jupiter b. Vulcan c. Mars **d. Saturn** e. Juno

33. Etymologically the name “Zeus” means
a. bright b. the thunderer c. the lightning bringer d. the storm cloud

34. Metamorphosis means: a. history of gods **b. change of shape** c.
sacrificial act d. a battle between gods e. creation

35. The aegis was : a. Hades’ cap of invisibility **b. a goat skin worn by Zeus
and Athena** c. the horn of plenty d. Zeus’ symbol as a lord of the universe
e. none of these

36. One of the following did NOT happen to Zeus as a result of the swallowing of
Metis
a. gain wisdom b. give birth to Athena c. avoid the birth of a powerful son **d.
defeat Typhoeus**

37. Atlas: a. was punished and was sent to Tartaros b. was the brother of Zeus
c. supported the sky on his shoulders d. was an old sea god e. none of these

38. What action triggered the final punishment of Prometheus?

a. The sacrifice of Zeus' sacred ox b. the unequal split of the meat **c. the theft of fire**
d. teaching skills of survival to humans (I also considered this answer as correct since according to Aeschylus, Prometheus did give humans other knowledge)

How do the characters and plot of the story related to Prometheus differ in the works of Hesiod and in Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*? Match the description with the poets:

a. Hesiod

b. Aeschylus:

39. Zeus is portrayed as an arrogant ruler with no compassion for humans **b**
 40. Prometheus is portrayed as a reckless rebel who caused suffering to humans, thus deserving to be punished **a**
 41. Prometheus gave humanity knowledge on useful arts and skills **b**
 42. Io is portrayed as an innocent victim of Zeus who visits Prometheus on Mt. Caucasus **b**

43. The secret that Prometheus is not revealing to Zeus in *Prometheus Bound*:

a. Hera's lover b. that he will be freed by Hercules **c. the name of the goddess that will bear a mightier son than him** d. that the eagle will die if he keeps eating his liver

44. Pandora was given special gifts from the gods and goddesses. Which of the following is correct?

a. Lies and curiosity from Hermes
 b. Quarrelsome and whining nature from Ares, god of war
 c. Sex appeal and seductiveness from Athena
 d.. Skills for crafts from fire god Hephaestos
 e. A bossy character from Hera

45. According to Ovid, Pyrrha and Deucalion asked Mother Earth: *By what art our race now lost, may be restored?* The goddess gave her answer: *Leave my temple, veil your heads, loosen your robes and cast behind you your great mother's bones.* What is the hidden meaning of her answer?

They have to: a. ... throw seeds found in the ground b. ... find the bones of those killed in the flood c.... to throw the bones of their grandmother Themis **d... throw rocks** e... cover themselves and mate on the ground

46. According to Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Narcissos was punished by goddess Nemesis because a. He did not feel compassion for Echo **b. of his arrogant**

behaviour towards those who loved him c. not offering the sacred daffodil to the goddess d. she was jealous of his great beauty e. refusing to sleep with her

47. Hera is especially associated with: **a. marriage** b. the moon c. justice d. crafts

48. Zeus, in order to seduce Hera, transformed himself into :
a. a cuckoo bird b. golden rain c. a peacock d. a cloud

49. Thetis is referred in the *Iliad* as the daughter of the Old Man of the Sea. He is:

Pontus **b. Nereus** c. Oceanus d. Triton e. Amphitrite

50. The White goddess Leukothea, a sea spirit, saved Odysseus by: **a. giving him a magic veil** b. providing him with a dolphin to ride on its back c. calming the winds d. giving him a unsinkable surfing board

IMAGES

51. This image depicts

- a. Mother Earth pleading with Father Sky not to eat her newborn baby
- b. Gaia presenting her child to Ouranos
- c. Rhea offering a bundle to her husband**
- d. Rhea presenting a rock to Ouranos

52. This image depicts a scene from the..

- a. Titanomachy
- b. Gigantomachy**
- c. the battle against the monster Typhoeus
- d. Athena's birth

53. Who are the warrior figures in this image?

- a. Might and Violence showing their support to Zeus
- b. The Giants about to attack Zeus
- c. The Curetes protecting Zeus from Kronos**
- d. The divine smiths who forged Zeus' weapons

54. In this image one is **NOT** correct according to the myth

- a. They are both the sons of Iapetus
- b. They are both tormented by animals as part of their punishment**
- c. Their torture is taking place at the extremities of the world
- d. They were both punished by Zeus

55. In this image

- a. Menelaus is holding Proteus
- b. Zeus is abducting Ganymedes
- c. Eos is abducting Tithonus

d. Peleus is trying to subdue Thetis

56. One of the following statements is NOT relevant to the myth showing in this image:

- a. The figure with the sword is Hermes
- b. Because of this incident the peacock enriched its plumage
- c. Because of this incident the cow will be bothered by a gadfly
- d. Because of this incident a new cluster of stars will be added to the sky

PLACES (One of them shows twice as an answer)

- a. Mycenae
- b. Olympia
- c. Argos
- d. Crete
- e. Mt. Olympus

57. The birthplace of Zeus according to Hesiod **d**

58. The palace of King Agamemnon was there **a**

59. An important PanHellenic festival took place there **b**

60. Thetis went there to meet Zeus and ask him to honour her son **e**

61. One of the favourite cities of the goddess Hera **c** (but -a- is correct as well, since that's what is mentioned in the Iliad)

62. The area where the Minoan civilization was originated **d**

FROM THE EPICS

63. *[The Greeks] wanted to see the priest respected and the splendid ransom taken. But this was not to Agamemnon's liking. He cruelly and bluntly dismissed the priest.*

There are several events that are connected to that incident. Which one is NOT true?

- a. The priest's daughter was captured and was given as a prize to Agamemnon.
- b. Agamemnon had the priest executed.
- c. The Greeks suffered a plague because of their leader's actions
- d. Agamemnon was forced to send back the captured daughter and exchange her for Achilles' prize

I did you favour among the immortals, now grant what I ask for. Now give honour to my son, short-lived beyond all other mortals...

64. How does Zeus respond to Thetis' request? a. He said that he would consult his Queen Hera first before he takes any decision. b. He promises to honour Achilles if Thetis leaves right away c. He says the conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans saddens him but he would rather stay impartial. d. He ignores Thetis' complaints

65. What was the favour that Thetis refers to in the Iliad? a. She refused to marry him in the past knowing that an offspring by him would be a threat to his power b. She helped him during the Titanomachy by summoning the powers of

the sea c. She summoned the monster with the 100 hands to defeat a rebellion against Zeus.

66. ... *the son of Kronos caught his wife in his arms. There underneath them the divine earth broke into young fresh grass....There they lay down together and drew about them a golden wonderful cloud and from it the glimmering dew descended*
 This part of the myth clearly shows an example of : a. **hieros gamos** b. looking taboo c. autochthony d. cornucopia e. metamorphosis

67. *He dressed himself in gold, picked up his splendid golden whip, mounted his chariot and drove across the waves... The sea made way for him in delight, the chariot flew along and the bronze axle remained dry below as his bounding horses carried him towards the Greek ships...*

This describes: a. Okeanos b. Helios c. Zeus **d. Poseidon** e. Apollo
 68. *You fool! You must have lost your senses when you decided to help the Trojans. You seem to have forgotten all the hardships you and I endured at Ilium...*
 Here Poseidon is addressing Apollo. **One** of the following is **NOT true**:
 a. Apollo and Poseidon were sent by Zeus to serve Troy's king for a year **b. Poseidon created springs around Troy to increase their water supply** c. Poseidon built the walls of Troy and Apollo tended the king's sheep. d. The Trojan king refused to honor them and even threatened to lop off their ears.

69. *Yet all the gods pitied him except Poseidon who pursued the heroic Odysseus with relentless malice till the day when he reached his own country. The reason the god was angry with him was:* a. Odysseus did not offer him enough sacrifices to his altars b. It was the stratagem of the Wooden Horse conceived by Odysseus that caused the destruction of the Walls of Troy built by Poseidon **c. Odysseus blinded Poseidon's son, the Cyclops Polyphemus** d. Poseidon was in love with the nymph Calypso and wanted to get rid of his rival.

70. *He will try all kinds of transformations and change himself onto every beast on earth and into water and blazing fire. But hold him fast and grip him all the tighter . This creature is:* a. Typhoeus, the hurricane, conquered by Zeus **b. Proteus, the prophetic Seal herdsman captured by Menelaus** c. Triton, the merman captured by Odysseus d. Pegasus the flying horse captured by Herakles