This is a Class 2 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School
for Boys and Girls
Loueizeh - Baabda

SE01 Exam

09NOV2026

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	English
Class :	11S1 and 11S2
Teacher :	Mrs. Narin Zakarian
Duration :	1 hour

Answer on the exam paper.

You are to answer the questions to this exam on : this exam paper

Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

Part A: Circle the correct answer. (5 marks)

1. Greek tragedies were performed in:
   a) open-air theaters
   b) temples
   c) palaces
   d) indoor halls

2. The main role of the Chorus in Greek tragedy is to:
   a) comment on the action and represent the community's view
   b) play the villain of the story
   c) change the scenery between episodes
   d) perform comic songs to lighten the mood

3. According to Aristotle, a tragedy arouses pity and fear in the audience in order to produce:
   a) hubris
   b) hamartia
   c) tragedy
   d) catharsis

4. In Greek tragedy, violent acts such as murder usually:
   a) are shown on stage in detail
   b) happen offstage and are reported, often by a messenger
   c) are acted out by the Chorus
   d) are never mentioned

5. Greek actors wore masks partly because:
   a) actors were forbidden to show their faces
   b) the audience preferred animal costumes
   c) a few male actors played all the roles, including women
   d) masks were used only in comedies

Part B: True or False (5 marks)

6. At the start of the play, Thebes is suffering from a plague. ____
7. Oedipus became king of Thebes by defeating Laius in battle. ____
8. Tiresias is eager to tell Oedipus the truth as soon as he arrives. ____
9. Oedipus accuses Creon of plotting with Tiresias to take his throne. ____
10. The messenger from Corinth tells Oedipus that Polybus was murdered. ____

Part C: Fill in the blanks using the word bank. One word will not be used. (5 marks)

Word bank: Sphinx · Delphi · Corinth · Merope · plague · Creon

11. At the start of the play, Thebes is suffering from a deadly _____.

12. Creon brings back the oracle's message from Apollo's shrine at _____.

13. Oedipus saved Thebes by answering the riddle of the _____.

14. Oedipus grew up in _____ as the son of King Polybus.

15. Oedipus believed his mother was _____, the wife of Polybus.

Part D: Excerpts

Excerpt 1:

> An oracle came to Laius one fine day
> (I won't say from Apollo himself
> but his underlings, his priests) and it declared
> that doom would strike him down at the hands of a son,
> our son, to be born of our own flesh and blood. But Laius,
> so the report goes at least, was killed by strangers,
> thieves, at a place where three roads meet . . . my son—
> he wasn't three days old and the boy's father
> fastened his ankles, had a henchman fling him away
> on a barren, trackless mountain.

16. a. Who is speaking? What is the speaker trying to prove to Oedipus, and why? **(3 marks)**

_____

_____

_____

16. b. Which detail in this speech disturbs Oedipus? Explain why. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

_____

16. c. Explain the dramatic irony of this speech. How does the speaker's "proof" against prophecy actually prove the opposite? **(3 marks)**

Excerpt 2:

Making my way toward this triple crossroad
I began to see a herald, then a brace of colts
drawing a wagon, and mounted on the bench . . . a man,
just as you've described him, coming face-to-face,
and the one in the lead and the old man himself
were about to thrust me off the road—brute force—
and the one shouldering me aside, the driver,
I strike him in anger!—and the old man, watching me
coming up along his wheels—he brings down
his prod, two prongs straight at my head!
I paid him back with interest!
Short work, by god—with one blow of the staff
in this right hand I knock him out of his high seat,
roll him out of the wagon, sprawling headlong—
I killed them all—every mother's son!

Oh, but if there is any blood-tie
between Laius and this stranger . . .
what man alive more miserable than I?
More hated by the gods? *I* am the man
no alien, no citizen welcomes to his house,
law forbids it—not a word to me in public,
driven out of every hearth and home.
And all these curses I—no one but I
brought down these piling curses on myself!

17. a. Why had Oedipus left Corinth before this event took place? **(2 marks)**

17. b. "And all these curses I—no one but I/ brought down these piling curses on myself!" Explain what Oedipus realizes about the curse. **(2 marks)**

17. c. One hope remains for Oedipus after this speech. What is it? **(1 mark)**

Part D: Answer in a well-structured paragraph

18. Aristotle said tragedy should make the audience feel pity and fear. At which moments do we feel pity for Oedipus, and why? (6 marks)

19. How does Oedipus's temper drive the tragedy? Refer to at least two moments. (6 marks)

Class 2 Exam

Part A: Circle the correct answer. (5 marks)

1. Greek tragedies were performed in:
   a) open-air theaters

2. The main role of the Chorus in Greek tragedy is to:
   a) comment on the action and represent the community's view

3. According to Aristotle, a tragedy arouses pity and fear in the audience in order to produce:
   d) catharsis

4. In Greek tragedy, violent acts such as murder usually:
   b) happen offstage and are reported, often by a messenger

5. Greek actors wore masks partly because:
   c) a few male actors played all the roles, including women

Part B: True or False (5 marks)

6. At the start of the play, Thebes is suffering from a plague. **True**
7. Oedipus became king of Thebes by defeating Laius in battle. **False**
8. Tiresias is eager to tell Oedipus the truth as soon as he arrives. **False**
9. Oedipus accuses Creon of plotting with Tiresias to take his throne. **True**
10. The messenger from Corinth tells Oedipus that Polybus was murdered. **False**

Fill in the blanks using the word bank. Two words will not be used. (5 marks)

Word bank: ·Creon

11. At the start of the play, Thebes is suffering from a deadly **plague**.
12. Creon brings back the oracle's message from Apollo's shrine at **Delphi.**
13. Oedipus saved Thebes by answering the riddle of the **Sphinx.**
14. Oedipus grew up in **Corinth** as the son of King Polybus.
15. Oedipus believed his mother was **Merope,** the wife of Polybus.

Part C: Excerpts

Excerpt 1:

> An oracle came to Laius one fine day
> (I won't say from Apollo himself
> but his underlings, his priests) and it declared
> that doom would strike him down at the hands of a son,
> our son, to be born of our own flesh and blood. But Laius,
> so the report goes at least, was killed by strangers,
> thieves, at a place where three roads meet . . . my son—
> he wasn't three days old and the boy's father
> fastened his ankles, had a henchman fling him away
> on a barren, trackless mountain.

16. a. Who is speaking? What is the speaker trying to prove to Oedipus, and why? **(3 marks)**

- **Speaker: Jocasta (1).**
- **What she wants to prove: prophecies and seers cannot be trusted; no human can know the future (1).**
- **Why: to calm Oedipus, who is upset because Tiresias named him as Laius's murderer and he believes Creon sent the prophet (1).**

16. b. Which detail in this speech disturbs Oedipus? Explain why. **(2 marks)**

- **The detail: "at a place where three roads meet" (1).**
- **Why: Oedipus remembers killing an old man and his attendants at a crossroads, so he begins to fear he is Laius's killer (1).**

16. c. Explain the dramatic irony of this speech. How does the speaker's "proof" against prophecy actually prove the opposite? **(3 marks)**

- **The prophecy actually came true – the baby survived (1).**
- **The baby grew up to be Oedipus, who killed Laius at the crossroads and married Jocasta (1).**
- **The details she offers as "proof" – the three roads, the fastened ankles – are the very clues that confirm the prophecy (1).**

Credit also: a link between the fastened ankles and Oedipus's name ("swollen foot"), or the point that the audience knows the truth while Jocasta does not. Accept "situational irony" if the explanation is accurate.

Excerpt 2:

Making my way toward this triple crossroad
I began to see a herald, then a brace of colts
drawing a wagon, and mounted on the bench . . . a man,
just as you've described him, coming face-to-face,
and the one in the lead and the old man himself
were about to thrust me off the road—brute force—
and the one shouldering me aside, the driver,
I strike him in anger!—and the old man, watching me
coming up along his wheels—he brings down
his prod, two prongs straight at my head!
I paid him back with interest!
Short work, by god—with one blow of the staff
in this right hand I knock him out of his high seat,
roll him out of the wagon, sprawling headlong—
I killed them all—every mother's son!

Oh, but if there is any blood-tie
between Laius and this stranger . . .
what man alive more miserable than I?
More hated by the gods? *I* am the man
no alien, no citizen welcomes to his house,
law forbids it—not a word to me in public,
driven out of every hearth and home.
And all these curses I—no one but I
brought down these piling curses on myself!

17. a. Why had Oedipus left Corinth before this event took place? **(2 marks)**

- **A drunken man at a banquet said Oedipus was not Polybus's real son, so he went to the oracle at Delphi (1).**
- **The oracle said he would kill his father and marry his mother, so he fled Corinth to avoid it (1).**

17. b. "And all these curses I—no one but I/ brought down these piling curses on myself!" Explain what Oedipus realizes about the curse. **(2 marks)**

- **If the man he killed was Laius, the curse Oedipus proclaimed on the murderer falls on himself (1).**
- **He has condemned himself to exile and shame with his own words – no one else is to blame (1).**

17. c. One hope remains for Oedipus after this speech. What is it? **(1 mark)**

The survivor reported that Laius was killed by "thieves" – more than one man. If the Shepherd confirms this, Oedipus, who was alone, is innocent.

Part D: Answer in a well-structured paragraph

18. Aristotle said tragedy should make the audience feel pity and fear. At which moments do we feel pity for Oedipus, and why? (6 marks)

We feel deep pity for Oedipus because he is a good man who suffers terribly for crimes he committed without knowing. [Topic sentence: 1] At the opening of the play, he is a caring king who grieves for his people and acts at once to save Thebes from the plague. [Evidence: ½] Earlier, he had fled Corinth to protect the parents he loved, trying to escape the terrible prophecy. [Evidence: ½] Ironically, every step he takes to avoid his fate brings him closer to it. [Analysis: ½] Our pity reaches its height at the moment of recognition, when he cries, "cursed in my birth, cursed in marriage, / cursed in the lives I cut down with these hands!" [Evidence: 1] We also feel fear, because if the greatest man in Thebes can fall so far, anyone can. [Analysis: ½] As the Chorus says, "I count no man blest." [Supporting quote: no extra mark] These feelings of pity and fear create the catharsis that Aristotle describes. [Analysis: 1]

[Organization and language: 1]

19. How does Oedipus's temper drive the tragedy? Refer to at least two moments. (6 marks)

Oedipus's quick temper is a major cause of his downfall, leading him to violence and to false accusations that hide the truth from him. [Topic sentence: 1] At the crossroads, when the driver pushes him off the road, he admits, "I strike him in anger!" [Evidence: 1] In his rage, he kills Laius without knowing that he is his father, and so he fulfills the prophecy himself. [Analysis: ½] Later, his anger blinds him again when Tiresias refuses to speak. [Link sentence: no extra mark] Instead of listening, Oedipus insults the prophet as a "fortune-teller peddling lies" and accuses Creon of plotting to steal his throne, without any proof. [Evidence: 1] His temper is his hamartia: it makes him turn against the people trying to help him and search for conspiracies instead of facts. [Analysis: 1] Fate set the prophecy, but Oedipus's anger decides how it comes true. [Analysis and conclusion: ½]

[Organization and language: 1]