This is a Class 2 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School
for Boys and Girls — Loueizeh - Baabda

Stage Exam 03
26JAN2024

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

Subject :	English
Class :	11S
Teacher :	Miss Jovana
Duration :	1 hour

Please answer on the lined paper provided.

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.

I. ***The following questions are based on Ovid's short poem The Story of Daedalus and Icarus from Metamorphoses. Read every question carefully and respond appropriately on the lined paper provided. (20 points)***

1. Many themes are evident in the short poem by Ovid. What is **one** theme that is extremely distinct in the poem? Develop accordingly. *(3 points)*
2. What **parental message** can the audience receive from the short poem? Describe your idea appropriately. *(3 points)*
3. Daedalus gives his son, Icarus, a warning. What does the following warning symbolically represent? Explain. *(2 points)*

   "...I warn you Icarus, fly a middle course:
   Don't go too low or water will weigh the wings down;
   Don't go too high, or the sun's fire will burn them. Keep to the middle way..."

4. What does the simile *"rose on his wings, flew on ahead, as fearful, as any bird launching the little nestlings, out of high nest into thin air"* mean? Explain. *(2 points)*
5. Icarus was *"drawn to the vast heaven"* and thus soared higher, getting closer to the sun. In **your** opinion, what does that mean? Explain appropriately. *(3 points)*
6. Describe the relationship between Daedalus and Icarus as father and son. Provide evidence. *(2 points)*
7. Ovid, the author of the short poem, was exiled from Rome by Augustus Caesar. How is that effect seen in the short poem? Develop your idea with evidence. *(3 points)*
8. What do the feathers symbolise as wings for Icarus? *(1 point)*
9. Ovid wrote the poem using free verse. What is the diction of this short poem? *(1 point)*

11S SE03 ANSWER KEY

I.

1. One theme that is extremely distinct in the short poem of Daedalus and Icarus by Ovid from Metamorphoses, is the concept behind pride and its downfall. Daedalus urges and warns his son not to fly too high to the sun, but in return, Icarus does the opposite. Icarus wants to reach as high as he can, and due to that wish and desire, his pride is what causes his death, as he falls from moving too close to the sun. He does not heed the advice of others and his superiority is what forced him to lose the game of life.
2. Ovid's poem clearly has parental messages found in it, especially the message and impression behind regarding those who have more authority and experience in life. Icarus did not listen to his father, and instead, wanted to experience freedom, his first taste of independence in life. This, in return, did not help him but instead is what killed Icarus. His father, Daedalus, knew that his son would not listen, and had an instinctual and parental feeling that his boy would do the opposite, would want to fly too high, would want to experience freedom amidst life's battles. However, Daedalus did not teach Icarus freedom by fragments, but he almost metaphorically threw him into the abyss without further help. Perhaps this is another parental message, allowing the child true freedom within increments, rather than throwing a child into the depths of limitless freedom of destruction.
3. Daedalus gives his son, Icarus, a warning; do not fly too low or the water will kill you and do not fly too high or the sun will kill you. Either way, his warning was to be taken into consideration, as he believed that his son would die either by getting too close to the sun or the water. Daedalus believed that nature was more powerful than human beings, and so he cautioned his son towards the sun or water. However, this also symbolically represents the way that humans can be destroyed, by stooping too low or too trying to fly too high for what is not theirs to begin with, for what they are not yet ready or prepared for.
4. The simile "rose on his wings, flew on ahead, as fearful, as any bird launching the little nestlings, out of high nest into thin air" describes the method which Icarus flew, as compared to a bird flying high for the first time. Icarus, like a bird using his wings for the first time, left his "nest", left his "home", his safe place, his comfort, and flew on wings, just as eager and excited, yet nervous and wearisome as any bird flying into thin air for the first time.
5. The idea that Icarus was "drawn to the vast heaven" and flew even higher may explain his love for nature, his love for freedom, his love for the powerful light that gives happiness and joy to anyone who dares go near it. The sun is symbolic here, and represents light, greatness and fluidity for humans, and Icarus was drawn to those expressions, rather than darkness. He was drawn to brightness, to goodness, to what life may be like with a sun that beats down and grants individuals, life.
6. Daedalus and Icarus as father and son are very similar to other parent and child relationships. The relationship is described in a very realistic manner by Ovid, done on purpose, to prove the realism behind the poem. Daedalus is a father that takes care of his son, gives him warnings, and then proceeds to give his child the freedom required on time, even though he might have thrown him into the wind too soon. Not only that, but Daedalus is also a father who worked on an invention for his son. However, perhaps he is not such an attentive father as his invention becomes his son's demolition and so the goodness of Daedalus' heart is thus taken on the opposite. For

Icarus, he is a child who does not willingly listen to his father, but as every child, wants to become who he wants to become, and wants to be the independent child he believes he can be. This was not exactly what helped Icarus, as he then died, due to his own ignorance.

7. Ovid was exiled from Rome by Augustus Caesar and eventually died in Romania. He wrote the short poem when he was exiled, and Icarus and Daedalus are true representations and portrayals of Ovid's emotions and thoughts after he was exiled. Ovid was no longer considered a powerful poet in Caesar's eye – or maybe he was considered too powerful, too daring for Caesar – and therefore, once he was thrown out, away from the great capital of a great empire at the time, he felt as if he had lost his freedom and his greatness, and his innermost feelings were dead. This is seen throughout the entire poem, as Ovid uses allusions and symbols to portray his innermost feelings once he was exiled and taken away by force, and to expand on the father and son who wanted to escape their exile in Crete, too. He uses the juxtaposition of light and dark, of freedom and captivity to expand his unfair sentencing.
8. Feathers as wings are symbolic in the poem, as they represent freedom, complete and total liberty, as a bird is free. Just as a bird begins to fly or learns how to fly with their baby wings, and so Icarus learns to fly and has the desire to sail on his "childish" wings. However, these wings that represent freedom, also portray the wisdom that Icarus lacked, but his love for life and for the light, as if childish attitude is at play.
9. Ovid's Daedalus and Icarus from Metamorphoses as a free verse poem contains poetic diction, where the poem is written in a very informal method, whilst highlighting allusions of the sea, using imagery and symbolism. This is done to encourage the poem's lines with messages that Ovid wants to put emphasis on.