**GCSE Aeneid 6**

**Themes**

* **The Underworld**: atmosphere, vivid description, contrasts between the different areas, comparison/contrast with the world of the living, beliefs about death and reincarnation;
* **Underworld characters**: traditional myths, monsters, Charon, Cerberus, Proserpina;
* **Underworld guides**: Sibyl, Charon, Anchises
* **Aeneas**: character; duty to his homeland, family, mission, the gods; love and grief for his father;
* **Rome**: future glory, Aeneas’ mission, sense of future for Aeneas/past for Virgil;
* **Fate and the gods**: does Aeneas have a choice in undertaking this journey to the Underworld and in how he responds to what he sees and discovers there?

**10-mark essay titles**

1. What impression do you get of the Underworld in the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
2. How does Virgil create variety and interest in his descriptions of the Underworld in the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
3. ‘Death is final and hopeless: there is nothing positive for a soul in the Underworld.’ Is this a fair description of the parts of Aeneid 6 you have studied?
4. ‘Virgil’s description of the Underworld is full of gloom and gives little hope for the surviving Trojans and the future of Rome.’ How far do you agree, based on the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
5. ‘All the gloom of the Underworld is dispelled by the glorious picture Virgil paints of the future Rome and its heroes.’ How far do you agree, based on the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
6. Who do you think gives Aeneas the most help in finding his way through the Underworld: the Sibyl, Charon or Anchises?
7. What impression do you get of Aeneas in the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
8. ‘All that Aeneas does is wholly focused on his mission to found Rome.’ How far do you agree, based on the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
9. Is Aeneas totally governed by fate and the gods or does he have a choice in undertaking his journey to the Underworld and in how he responds to what he sees and discovers there?
10. ‘Virgil clearly has no sympathy with anyone who might get in the way of Rome’s glory.’ How far do you agree, based on the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?
11. ‘Aeneas is the only fully-formed character in *Aeneid* 6: everyone else, whether real or mythological, is only described in the most shadowy terms.’ How far do you agree, based on the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?

**Wording**

You can refer in your answer to passages on the question paper, but you should also refer to the other parts of *Aeneid* II you have read.

**Remember**

* You do not need to quote the Latin in this question (though do if you can!);
* but you need to refer to the text (in English) in sufficient detail to illustrate your points precisely;
* Write in paragraphs, with a brief (max. 2 sentences) introduction and conclusion directly related to the question;
* Write at least five (short) paragraphs. Each one should consist of a point directly addressing the question, with two/three examples from the text;
* How/Why Questions: Try to include a range of points, and examples from different parts of the text;
* To what extent / How far do you agree Questions: Include points on both sides of the argument; then draw them together in a balanced conclusion. Again, include examples from different parts of the text;
* There is no right or wrong answer! The point is to show that you have read, thought about and understood the text. Detail is important, therefore!

1. What impression do you get of the Underworld in the sections of *Aeneid* 6 you have read?

**POINTS 1-5:**

EXPLANATION *State your point clearly and concisely (2 sentences max.) in terms of question.*

LINK TO GENERAL CONTEXT *Relate your point to the context of the story as a whole.*

**3** EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT (detailed English – and Latin if you like) *Choose clear examples from as broad a range of the text as possible. Show how each example illustrates your point.*

* A
* B
* C

LINK TO QUESTION *Concluding sentence directly answering the question based on your point.*

Make a mind-map to plan an answer this 10-mark question.

* You need **5** points (arranged in 5 separate paragraphs).
* Each point should follow the scheme in the box.
* Read carefully the notes on the previous page about how to structure your answer.