

FREE PRINTABLE QUIZ

The Odyssey

Book 22 — the slaughter of the suitors

Homer · 23 questions with a full answer key and explanations

What's inside

- **23 multiple-choice questions**, including passage analysis with the original text printed above it — the way your English class asks it.
- **Answer key** on its own page so you can take the quiz first.
- **Explanations** for every question, so a wrong answer teaches you something.
- Written from LumLysia's study edition of the book — not scraped summaries.

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The quiz

The Odyssey — Book 22. Answers begin on the answer key page.

PLOT & EVENT

1. What was the immediate consequence of Ulysses's first arrow striking Antinous?

- A. The suitors immediately surrendered, recognizing Ulysses.
- B. The suitors fled the hall in complete disarray.
- C. The suitors became enraged and mistakenly believed Ulysses had shot Antinous by accident.
- D. Minerva instantly appeared to protect Ulysses from retaliation.

PLOT & EVENT

2. Minerva's transformation into a swallow and perching on a rafter served what primary purpose in the battle?

- A. To signal to Ulysses that she was leaving the battle entirely.
- B. To observe the battle from a safe distance without direct involvement.
- C. To allow Ulysses and Telemachus to prove their own prowess and courage further.
- D. To provide a strategic vantage point for deflecting the suitors' spears.

CHARACTER

3. Which of the following best describes Ulysses's primary motivation for rejecting Eurymachus's offer of restitution?

- A. He believed the suitors were too poor to adequately compensate him.
- B. He sought to re-establish his authority through an undeniable act of vengeance and justice.
- C. He was primarily concerned with recovering his lost wealth rather than punishing the suitors.
- D. He feared that accepting their offer would make him appear weak to his loyal servants.

CHARACTER

4. Telemachus's decision to hang the disloyal maidservants rather than kill them with a sword primarily reflects his desire to:

- A. Conserve the swords for future battles.
- B. Inflict a more humiliating and drawn-out death as punishment for their betrayal and sexual misconduct.
- C. Avoid direct physical contact with those he considered beneath him.
- D. Follow a specific ritualistic execution method for traitors.

MICRO-DETAIL

5. What color was the cup Antinous was holding when Ulysses shot him?

- A. Silver
- B. Bronze
- C. Gold
- D. Clay

MICRO-DETAIL

6. What material was Eurymachus's 'keen blade' made of when he charged Ulysses?

- A. Iron
- B. Steel
- C. Bronze
- D. Silver

MICRO-DETAIL

7. What animal did Minerva transform into when she flew up to the rafters?

- A. An eagle
- B. An owl
- C. A dove
- D. A swallow

MICRO-DETAIL

8. What object did Medon the herald hide under before revealing himself to Telemachus?

- A. A large table
- B. A pile of cloaks
- C. A freshly flayed heifer's hide
- D. A stack of shields

MICRO-DETAIL

9. What substance did Ulysses instruct Euryclea to bring for purifying the hall after the slaughter?

- A. Incense
- B. Wine
- C. Sulphur
- D. Olive oil

ANALYTICAL

10. The simile comparing the dead suitors to 'fishes which fishermen have netted out of the sea, and thrown upon the beach to lie gasping for water till the heat of the sun makes an end of them' primarily serves to:

- A. Emphasize the vast number of suitors killed.
- B. Highlight the swiftness and efficiency of Ulysses's attack.
- C. Underscore the helplessness and ignominious end of the suitors.
- D. Suggest that Ulysses's actions were as natural and inevitable as a fisherman's catch.

ANALYTICAL

11. Ulysses's instruction to Euryclea, 'rejoice in silence; restrain yourself, and do not make any noise about it; it is an unholy thing to vaunt over dead men,' reveals his understanding of:

- A. The need to maintain secrecy about the slaughter.
- B. The importance of showing mercy to the defeated.
- C. The distinction between righteous justice and excessive, impious gloating.
- D. His own weariness after the long battle.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

On this he aimed a deadly arrow at Antinous, who was about to take up a two-handled gold cup to drink his wine and already had it in his hands. He had no thought of death—who amongst all the revellers would think that one man, however brave, would stand alone among so many and kill him? The arrow struck Antinous in the throat, and the point went clean through his neck, so that he fell over and the cup dropped from his hand, while a thick stream of blood gushed from his nostrils. He kicked the table from him and upset the things on it, so that the bread and roasted meats were all soiled as they fell over on to the ground.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

12. The sentence structure in the description of Antinous's death, particularly the rapid succession of clauses after the arrow strikes, primarily serves to:

- A. Emphasize the narrator's emotional detachment from the violence.
- B. Create a sense of chaotic urgency and the sudden, irreversible nature of death.
- C. Highlight the meticulous planning involved in Ulysses's attack.
- D. Allow for a detailed inventory of the items on the table.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

13. The vivid imagery of 'a thick stream of blood gushed from his nostrils' and 'bread and roasted meats were all soiled as they fell over on to the ground' primarily functions to:

- A. Symbolize the suitors' gluttony and excess.
- B. Contrast the sacred act of feasting with the profane act of murder.
- C. Underscore the brutal, visceral reality of the violence and the desecration of the domestic space.
- D. Suggest that Antinous was particularly fond of food and drink.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

14. The narrator's parenthetical question, 'who amongst all the revellers would think that one man, however brave, would stand alone among so many and kill him?', contributes to a tone of:

- A. Sympathy for Antinous's fate.
- B. Sarcastic commentary on the suitors' arrogance and blindness.
- C. Objective reporting of the events.
- D. Admiration for Ulysses's bravery.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

"Dogs, did you think that I should not come back from Troy? You have wasted my substance, have forced my women servants to lie with you, and have wooed my wife while I was still living. You have feared neither God nor man, and now you shall die."

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

15. The opening word 'Dogs' functions primarily as a form of:

- A. A term of endearment, ironically used.
- B. A direct address to their animalistic behavior.
- C. An epithet, indicating their low social status.
- D. A metaphor for their loyalty to Antinous.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

16. The repeated phrase 'You have...' in Ulysses's speech creates an effect of:

- A. Hesitation and uncertainty.
- B. A formal legal indictment, listing their crimes.
- C. A poetic refrain, emphasizing his sorrow.
- D. A rhetorical question, inviting their defense.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

17. The overall tone of Ulysses's speech to the suitors can best be described as:

- A. Regretful and melancholic.
- B. Righteous and uncompromising.
- C. Pleading and desperate.
- D. Calm and rational.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

"Ulysses," said she, "your strength and prowess are no longer what they were when you fought for nine long years among the Trojans about the noble lady Helen. You killed many a man in those days, and it was through your stratagem that Priam's city was taken. How comes it that you are so lamentably less valiant now that you are on your own ground, face to face with the suitors in your own house? Come on, my good fellow, stand by my side and see how Mentor, son of Alcimus shall fight your foes and requite your kindnesses conferred upon him."

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

18. Minerva's rhetorical strategy in this passage is primarily one of:

- A. Direct command and instruction.
- B. Flattery and reassurance.
- C. Chiding and provocation.
- D. Logical argumentation and persuasion.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

19. The contrast Minerva draws between Ulysses's past actions at Troy and his current situation in his own house serves to:

- A. Suggest that Ulysses has genuinely lost his courage.
- B. Undermine Ulysses's confidence in his abilities.
- C. Remind Ulysses of his heroic identity and inspire him to live up to it.
- D. Criticize Ulysses for his prolonged absence from Ithaca.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

20. The phrase 'see how Mentor, son of Alcimus shall fight your foes and requite your kindnesses conferred upon him' contains dramatic irony because:

- A. Mentor is known to be a poor fighter.
- B. Ulysses has never shown kindness to Mentor.
- C. The audience knows 'Mentor' is actually Minerva, a goddess.
- D. The suitors are unaware of Mentor's true identity.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

So saying he made a ship's cable fast to one of the bearing-posts that supported the roof of the domed room, and secured it all around the building, at a good height, lest any of the women's feet should touch the ground; and as thrushes or doves beat against a net that has been set for them in a thicket just as they were getting to their nest, and a terrible fate awaits them, even so did the women have to put their heads in nooses one after the other and die most miserably. Their feet moved convulsively for a while, but not for very long.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

21. The simile comparing the women to 'thrushes or doves beat against a net' primarily emphasizes their:

- A. Innocence and vulnerability in the face of an inescapable trap.
- B. Aggressive resistance against their captors.
- C. Swift and graceful movements.
- D. Lack of intelligence compared to their executioners.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

22. The phrase 'Their feet moved convulsively for a while, but not for very long' contributes to a tone that is:

- A. Sympathetic and mournful.
- B. Clinical and detached.
- C. Horrified and outraged.
- D. Triumphant and celebratory.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

23. Telemachus's action of hanging the women 'at a good height, lest any of the women's feet should touch the ground' suggests a deliberate intent to:

- A. Ensure the execution was quick and painless.
- B. Prevent them from escaping or resisting.
- C. Inflict maximum suffering and humiliation.
- D. Adhere to a specific ritualistic form of execution.

Answer key

Check your answers here, then read the explanations on the next page.

1. C	2. C	3. B	4. B	5. C
6. C	7. D	8. C	9. C	10. C
11. C	12. B	13. C	14. B	15. B
16. B	17. B	18. C	19. C	20. C
21. A	22. B	23. C		

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Answers explained

Why the right answer is right — and what the question is really testing.

1. C. The suitors became enraged and mistakenly believed Ulysses had shot Antinous by accident.

The suitors' initial reaction was one of furious indignation, assuming the 'stranger' had made a grave error, highlighting their arrogance and blindness to the true identity of their attacker.

2. C. To allow Ulysses and Telemachus to prove their own prowess and courage further.

Minerva deliberately withheld full divine intervention at that moment, choosing to test the resolve and skill of Ulysses and Telemachus, ensuring their victory was also a testament to their own strength.

3. B. He sought to re-establish his authority through an undeniable act of vengeance and justice.

Ulysses's refusal to negotiate, even for immense wealth, underscores his commitment to divine justice and the restoration of his honor and authority, which had been deeply violated by the suitors' actions.

4. B. Inflict a more humiliating and drawn-out death as punishment for their betrayal and sexual misconduct.

Telemachus explicitly states he will not grant them a 'clean death,' indicating his intent to punish their insolence and sexual betrayal with a more ignominious and agonizing end, reflecting the severity of their perceived crimes.

5. C. Gold

The text specifically mentions Antinous was about to drink from a 'two-handled gold cup,' a detail that emphasizes his luxurious and oblivious state before death.

6. C. Bronze

The text describes Eurymachus drawing his 'keen blade of bronze,' a common material for weapons in the Homeric age.

7. D. A swallow

Minerva transformed into a 'swallow' to observe the battle from the rafters, a subtle yet significant detail.

8. C. A freshly flayed heifer's hide

Medon was 'crouching under a seat beneath which he had hidden by covering himself up with a freshly flayed heifer's hide.'

9. C. Sulphur

Ulysses specifically asks for 'sulphur, which cleanses all pollution,' a detail that highlights ancient purification rituals.

10. C. Underscore the helplessness and ignominious end of the suitors.

This powerful simile vividly portrays the suitors' utter helplessness and their undignified, agonizing demise, stripped of all power and agency.

11. C. The distinction between righteous justice and excessive, impious gloating.

Ulysses, despite his brutal actions, recognizes the sacred boundary between executing divine justice and indulging in hubristic, unholy triumph over the dead, aligning himself with divine principles rather than mere human vengeance.

12. B. Create a sense of chaotic urgency and the sudden, irreversible nature of death.

The quick, impactful clauses ('struck... went clean through... fell over... dropped... gushed... kicked... upset') mirror the suddenness and violence of Antinous's demise, conveying the shock and speed of the event.

13. C. Underscore the brutal, visceral reality of the violence and the desecration of the domestic space.

This imagery is designed to shock and emphasize the raw, gruesome nature of the killing, juxtaposing the former scene of revelry with the sudden, messy reality of death and the defilement of the once-sacred feasting hall.

14. B. Sarcastic commentary on the suitors' arrogance and blindness.

This rhetorical question drips with sarcasm, highlighting the suitors' hubris and their fatal underestimation of Ulysses, thereby justifying the swift and unexpected nature of Antinous's death.

15. B. A direct address to their animalistic behavior.

'Dogs' is a powerful insult, dehumanizing the suitors and emphasizing their base, predatory, and disloyal nature, contrasting sharply with the expected behavior of noblemen.

16. B. A formal legal indictment, listing their crimes.

This anaphoric structure functions as a powerful, damning indictment, systematically listing the suitors' transgressions and building an irrefutable case for their punishment.

17. B. Righteous and uncompromising.

Ulysses's speech is filled with a sense of justified anger and unwavering resolve, leaving no room for negotiation or mercy, establishing his authority and the inevitability of their doom.

18. C. Chiding and provocation.

Minerva deliberately uses a tone of scolding and challenge, comparing Ulysses's past glories to his current perceived hesitation, specifically to ignite his fighting spirit and provoke him into action.

19. C. Remind Ulysses of his heroic identity and inspire him to live up to it.

Minerva's comparison is a strategic motivational tactic, designed to shame Ulysses into remembering his legendary prowess and to spur him to fight with the same ferocity he displayed during the Trojan War.

20. C. The audience knows 'Mentor' is actually Minerva, a goddess.

The irony lies in the fact that the audience (and Ulysses) knows 'Mentor' is Minerva, a powerful goddess, making her promise to 'fight your foes' a divine assurance rather than a mortal's pledge, while the suitors remain oblivious.

21. A. Innocence and vulnerability in the face of an inescapable trap.

The simile highlights the women's helplessness and the cruel, predetermined nature of their fate, likening them to small, defenseless birds caught in a hunter's snare.

22. B. Clinical and detached.

The description is stark and factual, focusing on the physical details of their dying moments without explicit emotional commentary, creating a chillingly detached and objective tone.

23. C. Inflict maximum suffering and humiliation.

By ensuring their feet could not touch the ground, Telemachus guarantees a prolonged and agonizing death by strangulation, emphasizing the severity and cruelty of the punishment for their perceived betrayal.

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