English I Honors
“The Odyssey” Test

Part I: Characters
Match the character name at the left with the description or epithet on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Odysseus</th>
<th>a. “the blind prophet;” Odysseus visits him in the land of the dead</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Tiresias</td>
<td>b. goddess of epic poetry; invocations are written to her</td>
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<td>3. Eurylochus</td>
<td>c. “the Prince -----, true son of Odysseus”</td>
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<td>4. Atinous</td>
<td>d. a Cyclops</td>
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<td>5. Penelope</td>
<td>e. Odysseus’ faithful wife</td>
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<td>6. Eumeas</td>
<td>f. a swineherd; Odysseus and Telemachus are reunited near his hut</td>
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<td>7. Telemachus</td>
<td>g. Laertes’ son; “that man skilled in all ways of contending”</td>
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<td>8. Charybdis</td>
<td>h. held Odysseus captive for seven years</td>
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<td>9. Calypso</td>
<td>i. a fierce whirlpool personified as a woman</td>
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<td>10. Athena</td>
<td>j. “of Aeaea”</td>
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<td>11. Circe</td>
<td>k. lure sailors to their deaths with their songs</td>
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<td>12. Sirens</td>
<td>l. turned Odysseus’ men into swine for their poor behavior at her table</td>
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<td>13. Poseidon</td>
<td>m. patron goddess of Odysseus; “Hope of Soldiers”</td>
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<td>14. Polyphemus</td>
<td>n. “Eupeithes’ son;” the rudest, most arrogant suitor</td>
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<td>15. Calliope</td>
<td>o. “who sets the earth a-tremble,” father of Polyphemus</td>
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Part II: Multiple Choice

16. The Lotus is dangerous to Odysseus because it makes those who eat it

a. fall asleep
b. forget who they are
c. lose strength
d. want nothing else
17. The Cyclops’ attitude toward Zeus is
   a. fearful
   b. pitying
   c. scornful
   d. admiring

18. Odysseus offers the Cyclops wine in an effort to
   a. make him sleepy
   b. improve his mood
   c. get on his good side
   d. inspire him to be merciful

19. The other Cyclopses do not help Polyphemus because they
   a. fear Odysseus
   b. cannot move the doorway slab
   c. are tricked by Odysseus’ cleverness
   d. do not care what happens to Polyphemus

20. As Odysseus’ men row out to sea, they are endangered by the fact that Odysseus
   a. moves too slowly
   b. will not leave silently
   c. hurries the departure
   d. goes in the wrong direction

21. The phrase “to be between Scylla and Charybdis” means
   a. to be filled with nervous excitement
   b. to be without energy, ability, or hope
   c. to have to choose between two bad alternatives
   d. to need to make a decision based on inadequate information

22. On the island of the sun, Odysseus’ men disobey his orders when they are overcome by
   a. panic
   b. greed
   c. hunger
   d. curiosity
23. Events prove that it was quite unfortunate for Odysseus to

   a. have himself tied to the mast
   b. urge his men to row hard past Charybdis
   c. remind his men of how they had escaped the Cyclops
   d. leave his men in order to pray on the island of the sun

24. The last of Odysseus crew perish when

   a. they fail to escape Scylla
   b. their ship is driven onto rocks
   c. they are sucked into a whirlpool
   d. their ship is struck by a thunderbolt

25. Antinous' treatment of "the beggar" reveals that he is all of the following EXCEPT

   a. rude
   b. cruel
   c. cowardly
   d. confident

26. When Antinous is killed, the suitors immediately assume that

   a. Odysseus has returned
   b. All of them are in grave danger
   c. Antinous' death was an accident
   d. The "beggar" wants to marry Penelope

27. Penelope suggests moving Odysseus' bed in order to discover if he

   a. still loves her
   b. is who he claims to be
   c. remembers their secret
   d. will remain patient with her

28. "Homecoming" is an example of a(n) _______ theme.

   a. epic
   b. Homeric
   c. Archetypal
   d. Irrelevant
29. Which of the following quotes is NOT an example of divine intervention?

- a. “by some sheep-herding whim-/ or a god’s bidding – none were left outside”
- b. “the men I would have chosen [to poke out Polyphemus’ eye] won the toss”
- c. “This is our pact and pledge, our secret sign”
- d. “But soon an off-shore breeze blew to our liking –“

30. Which of the following does not suggest a potential tragic flaw of Odysseus’?

- a. Odysseus insists, after taking a group of men ashore on the Cyclopses’ island, that they remain in Polyphemus’ cave rather than plunder and leave because he “wished to see the caveman.”
- b. “I would not heed them in my glorying spirit,/ but let my anger flare and yelled . . . .“
- c. “…Restitution or penalty they shall pay -/ and pay in full –“
- d. Odysseus sleeps while the bag of winds are opened and while the cattle are slaughtered.

**Part III: Chronological Order**

Put the following events in **chronological order**. (NOT the order the reader learns of them, but the order they actually happened if you were making a timeline.)

A. the Trojan War ended

B. the Cicones’ settlement was plundered by Odysseus and his men

C. Athena deposits Odysseus on the shores of Phaecia

D. Penelope accepts the beggar as her husband, Odysseus

E. Odysseus is held prisoner for seven years by Calypso

F. Six men die when eaten by Scylla

G. The suitors are killed by Odysseus, Telemachus, Eumeas, and Philoeteus

H. Six men die over two days; two each for the Cyclops’ dinner, breakfast, and dinner

I. Odysseus and Telemachus are reunited

J. Some of the men dine on the Lotus flower

K. Odysseus’ men are turned into swine for their poor table manners

L. Odysseus is assaulted by Antinous
M. Odysseus sleeps while his men release unfavorable winds from a bag

N. Odysseus falls asleep instead of praying and his men slaughter Helios' cattle

**Part IV: For each quote, name the theme that is being alluded to.**

45. “Never could I have passed her/ had not the Father of gods and men, this time, kept me from her eyes.”

46. “There is our pact and pledge, our secret sign, built into that bed.”

47. Lord Helios “took from their eyes the dawn of their return.”

48. “And when long years and seasons/ wheeling brought around that point in time ordained for him to make his passage homeward …” *(2 themes referenced; name both)*

49. “But in my heart I never gave consent”

50. “as custom is to honor strangers”

**Part V: Literary Devices**

For each of the following quotes, name the literary device(s) present and briefly describe what is happening in that portion of the epic.

51. “A man surfcasting on a point of rock/ for bass or mackerel, whipping his long rod/ to drop the sinker and the bait far out,/ will hook a fish and rip it from the surface/ to dangle wriggling through the air:/ so these/ were borne aloft in spasms toward the cliff.”

52. “broke a hilltop in his hands and heaved it …”

53. “I told them nothing, as they could do nothing”

54. “When [Charybdis] vomited, all the sea was like a cauldron” *(2)*

55. “a massive cake of beeswax”