

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017  
First Year First Semester  
ENGLISH  
Classical Tragedy

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks

1. Would you agree with Louis Gernet's view that the moment of tragedy is that which intervenes between the law that is being born and the law that is already founded? Discuss.
2. "Human life as Prometheus portrays it is a stark struggle for survival, and the world he envisions, while recognizably human, is devoid of the sacred and humane: no kindness or fellowship, no religion or government, no families or civil society." Does this strike you as being an acceptable description of Prometheus's view of human life? Give reasons.
3. Would you agree that Eteocles and the Chorus have significantly different views of the role of the Gods in securing the safety of Thebes? Discuss.
4. Would you agree with the view that the changes in Neoptolemus's view of what constitutes his duty are the critical issue in *Philoctetes*? Justify your answer.
5. "It is the negative state of Electra's world which calls out her greatness, yet also immerses her in a hopeless *ananke*. She remains loyal to her hates and loves, but her situation precludes a full realization of the positive aspects of her nature." Do you agree? Give reasons.
6. "Power lies not in the mere possession of it, but in its recognition by others". Would you consider this to be a fundamental concern in Euripides's *Bacchae*? Justify.
7. It has been argued that more than the avoidance of catastrophe, it is the use of deceit that makes *Iphigenia in Tauris* deficient as a tragedy. Would you agree or disagree with this opinion? Cite reasons for your answer.
8. Write notes on any two:
  - a. Anagnorisis in *Electra* and *Iphigenia in Tauris*
  - b. Kommatik Choruses
  - c. Tragedy and *Philia*