Study Guide To Edith Hamilton’s Mythology

Short Answer Questions - Introduction to Classical Mythology

1. The Greeks created their gods in whose image?

2. How did the Greek gods act?

3. The behavior of the Greek gods reflects the Greek attitude towards the beauty and perfection of ________.

4. The Greeks saw perfection in the ideal beauty of ____________, and they used it as a model for their statues of the gods.

5. Why did the Greeks create their myths, initially?

6. The myths conveyed developing religious ideas concerning ____________.

7. When a mortal committed a crime, broke an oath, or harmed a guest, they were seen to be ____________.

8. The Roman poet ________ wrote a lot about the myths, but presented them as silly stories that held no inner meaning.

9. Homer, an ancient Greek __________, provided a lot of important insight in his epics, the Iliad and the Odyssey.

10. Hesiod’s _____________ is another main source, which asked questions about the origins of things.

11. Homeric hymns, written from the end of the ____________ century BC to the fifth or even fourth century BC, were written to honor various gods.

12. Later Greek writers include ____________, a lyric poet whose poems contained references to mythology, and the tragic playwrights Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides.

Short Answer Questions - Part One. The Gods, and The Two Great Gods of Earth

1. The main gods, or _______________, lived on Mount Olympus.

2. These gods were the children of the ____________, who were the children of heaven and earth.

3. Zeus and the other gods took over when Zeus dethroned ____________ and seized his power.

4. The Romans believed in the Olympian gods, giving them different ____________.

5. __________ was the king of the gods and ruler of Olympus.
6. ________________ was the goddess of marriage and women.

7. ________________ was the god of the sea and brother of Zeus.

8. ____________ was the other brother of Zeus and ruler of the underworld, where mortals went when they died.

9. _______________ was the goddess of wisdom, and protector of cities and civilization.

10. Apollo (also known as Apollo to the Romans) and ____________ were the children of Zeus and Leto.

11. ____________ was the god of light, archery, music, culture, healing, and prophecy.

12. ____________ was the goddess of love, who was said to have been born from the foam of the sea.

Short Answer Questions - Part One. How the World and Mankind Were Created, and The Earliest Heroes

1. According to the Greeks, in the beginning there was only ____________.

2. Out of this came Night and Death, then Light, followed by Earth (__________) and Heaven (Uranus, or Uranus).

3. The Titan called Cronus fought his father and took his power. Fearing that his children would do the same when they grew up, what did he do to each newborn baby?

4. When Zeus was born, what did Cronus' wife Rhea do?

5. Zeus imprisoned the Titans and forced ________ to hold up the sky.

6. There are ________ different versions of the story of the creation of man.

7. In one version of the story of the creation of man, the gods created different races of men based on ____________.

8. Another story tells that Zeus was angry with early men and sent what to destroy them?

9. Whose family survived Zeus' anger?

10. To punish men, Zeus sent them ____________.

11. How is the creation myth of the Greeks peculiar?

12. Why were the gods worshiped?
Short Answer Questions - Part Three. The Great Heroes before the Trojan War - Perseus, Theseus, Hercules and Atalanta

1. Perseus was the son of Zeus and whom?

2. Perseus was famous for killing ____________, a Gorgon whose gaze could turn a man to stone.

3. On Perseus' return, he flew over _____________ where the maiden Andromeda was being sacrificed to a sea-monster to appease the anger of the sea-god and his nymphs.

4. Theseus was the son of ____________, king of Athens, but he was brought up in a city in southern Greece.

5. Theseus saved Athens from the cruelty of _______________, who demanded a tribute of seven maidens and seven young men every nine years to feed to the Minotaur.

6. Theseus became a good and just king of _________ and took part in many more adventures, such as the Calydonian Boar hunt and the fight between Centaurs and Lapiths.

7. Theseus was honored by the Athenians as a protector of ______________ and a great king of their city.

8. Hercules was the son of Zeus and whom?

9. Why did Hercules kill his wife and children?

10. Hercules undertook ______________ seemingly impossible tasks for King Eurystheus of Mycenae in order to punish and purify himself for the murder of his family.

11. Atalanta was raised by ____________ and became a great huntress.

12. To what did Atalanta challenge all her suitors?

Short Answer Questions - Part Four. The Trojan War, and The Fall of Troy

1. When a Trojan prince called Paris was asked to judge a beauty contest between three goddesses, who bribed him with the offer of the most beautiful woman in the world?

2. To whom was Helen married?

3. The abduction of Helen began a _____ year war between Greece and Troy, with many heroes on both sides.

4. How was Achilles killed by Paris?

5. The Greeks finally won the war with ____________.

6. Who was the only Trojan prince to escape?
7. The story of the Trojan War was ________________ important and popular myths of the Greeks, and one which every educated Greek and Roman would have been familiar with.

8. What was the fatal flaw of most Greek heroes?

9. Achilles could not stand the slight to his honor that Agamemnon brought about by ________________.

10. Why was refusing someone a burial a serious affront to the gods?

11. The heroes of the Trojan War, also called __________ heroes, were slightly different from the older mythological heroes such as Hercules, Perseus and Theseus.

12. Earlier heroes were superhuman individuals, who fought alone against monsters and strange creatures, while the Trojan heroes fought whom?

**Short Answer Questions - Part Four. The Adventures of Odysseus**

1. Odysseus' journey home to Ithaca took him ______ years, and he faced many fierce monsters and dangerous people along the way.

2. When Odysseus blinded the Cyclops, he angered whom?

3. Odysseus and his men faced man eating monsters and strange magic, losing how many ships on their journey?

4. On Circe's island the men were turned into what?

5. Odysseus rescued the men before visiting the dead prophet ________________ in the underworld.

6. After killing some of the Sun-god's ________________, all of Odysseus' men were punished by drowning in a storm.

7. Odysseus alone survived and washed up on the shore of the island of ________________, where a sea-nymph who kept him captive for years.

8. Odysseus' adventures were told in the _________ poem The Odyssey.

9. Who composed the Odyssey?

10. Modern scholarship usually dates The Odyssey to around the ______ century BC.

11. The Odyssey was in many ways a celebration of what it meant to be _____________.

12. It was a moral tale that taught proper behavior toward whom?