

2019-2020 Medusa Mythology Exam -- Family Feuds Syllabus

This year's theme focuses on the arguments, quarrels, fights, and disputes between and among the Olympian gods and goddesses—Aphrodite, Apollo, Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Dionysus, Hades, Hephaestus, Hera, Hermes, Hestia, Poseidon, and Zeus. Questions will focus on the **people, objects, places, and resolutions** related to the Olympian gods and goddesses' feuds.

The items listed below are NOT all-encompassing, and should serve only as a starting point for those studying for the exam. Familiarity with the **context of the mythological stories indicated by the keywords is necessary. There may be questions on the exam that are not covered by the items listed below. Studying beyond what is listed here is thus strongly encouraged.**

Feud	Keywords
Aphrodite vs. Athena vs. Hera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gold apple ● Trojan War
Apollo vs. Hermes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cattle theft ● New musical instrument
Apollo vs. Poseidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hestia
Apollo vs. Zeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asclepius ● Thunderbolts ● Admetus
Ares vs. Hephaestus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aphrodite ● A golden net
Ares vs. Poseidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Halirrhothius ● Aeropagus
Athena vs. Poseidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Odysseus and Polyphemus
Demeter vs. Hades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persephone
Demeter vs. Poseidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stallion ● Arion and Despoina
Dionysus vs. Hera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Semele ● Ino and Athamas
Hephaestus vs. Hera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Golden throne
Hephaestus vs. Zeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Olympus ● Hera
Hera vs. Poseidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patronage of Argos ● River-gods
Hera vs. Apollo and Artemis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leto ● Delos
Hera vs. Zeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zeus' affairs with mortal women ● Most famous offspring: Heracles, Dionysus

Zeus vs. Athena, Hera, and Poseidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rebellion● Thetis and Briareus
Big Showdown: The Trojan War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Golden apple● Aphrodite vs. Athena and Hera● Diomedes● Ares and Aphrodite vs. Athena● Hera vs. Zeus● Aphrodite's golden belt

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1. With what did Hera bribe Paris so that he would award her the golden apple over Athena and Aphrodite?
a. A winged horse b. Rule of Asia c. A woman d. Military prowess
2. Which goddess, the first-born child of Cronus and Rhea, resisted the advances of both Apollo and Poseidon?
a. Artemis b. Hera c. Athena d. Hestia
3. Who was tried (and acquitted) on the Areopagus for the murder of Poseidon's son?
a. Apollo b. Orestes c. Ares d. Hermes
4. Hera, jealous that Zeus had independently produced Athena from his head, gave birth on her own to what disappointingly ugly god?
a. Hephaestus b. Poseidon c. Dionysus d. Ares
5. In her contest with Poseidon over the guardianship of Athens, what useful gift did Athena offer?
a. An olive tree b. The Parthenon c. A spring d. The aegis
6. Which goddess told a pregnant Semele that she should ask her lover Zeus to appear as radiantly to her as he does on Mount Olympus, knowing that the outcome would be fatal for the mortal woman?
a. Aphrodite b. Hera c. Hestia d. Athena
7. Which Argive river god did Poseidon cause to dry up because his son Phoroneus had preferred the worship of Hera?
a. Scamander b. Inachus c. Acrisius d. Achelous
8. Which divine mother-to-be took refuge from a vengeful Juno on a floating piece of land?
a. Niobe b. Semele c. Leda d. Latona
9. According to Homer's *Iliad*, what powerful, hundred-handed creature (also known as Aegaeon) does Thetis bring in to defend Zeus against a revolt of the other Olympian gods?
a. Prometheus b. Cottus c. Briareus d. Gyges
10. Which daughter of Cadmus was punished for raising her nephew, Dionysus, when jealous Hera struck her husband with insanity?
a. Agave b. Semele c. Ino d. Autonoe
11. Which maiden was abducted by her uncle with the full knowledge of her father, Zeus?
a. Persephone b. Despoina c. Hebe d. Helen
12. In return for the caduceus, what object did Hermes agree to give his brother Apollo?
a. Sandals made from eagle feathers b. A pipe made from cut reeds
c. A bow made from an ibex horn d. A lyre made from a tortoise shell
13. Despite having the divine support of Athena, Odysseus incurred the wrath of what god when he blinded his son?
a. Hephaestus b. Poseidon c. Zeus d. Apollo
14. Into what animal did the goddess Demeter transform herself to escape Poseidon, only for him to transform into the same animal?
a. Horse b. Snake c. Deer d. Swan
15. Because he was not powerful enough to attack his father Zeus directly, whom did Apollo slay in retaliation for the death of his son Asclepius?
a. Coronis b. Pactolus c. Hippolytus d. The Cyclopes
16. Whom did Hephaestus catch in bed with his wife and humiliate with the use of an ingenious trap?
a. Hermes b. Ares c. Hades d. Dionysus
17. Both Zeus and Poseidon attempted to woo what Nereid before a prophecy made about her future son stopped them in their tracks?
a. Thetis b. Doris c. Calypso d. Clymene
18. In the *Iliad*, what goddess saves her unconscious son from an Athena-empowered Diomedes?
a. Aphrodite b. Hera c. Artemis d. Demeter
19. Which of his sons did Zeus sentence to a year of servitude to King Admetus of Pherae?
a. Heracles b. Apollo c. Dionysus d. Hermes
20. Who agreed to split the patronage of Corinth with the sun god Helios?
a. Apollo b. Eros c. Selene d. Poseidon
21. Which of the following Olympians did NOT pick a side in the Trojan War?
a. Hestia b. Ares c. Aphrodite d. Poseidon
22. Which Trojan, despite Venus and Jupiter's favor, incurred the wrath of Juno after the Trojan War?
a. Aeneas b. Polydorus c. Antilochus d. Hector

23. Which goddess tossed an apple inscribed with the fighting words “to the fairest” into the wedding reception of Peleus and Thetis?
 a. Eris b. Eros c. Iris d. Hephaestus
24. The death of Adonis was brought about by which goddess in order to punish Aphrodite?
 a. Demeter b. Artemis c. Hera d. Hestia
25. Why was it hard for Apollo to track his stolen cattle?
 a. The thief had walked the cattle backwards. b. He fell asleep listening to the story about Pan and Syrinx.
 c. He could not see their tracks because of a rainstorm. d. Athena had temporarily blinded him with a gray mist.
26. Who wrestled Thanatos to retrieve Alcestis from the Underworld after she took her husband’s place in Hades?
 a. Apollo b. Admetus c. Perseus d. Heracles
27. Whom did Hephaestus trap with the use of a magical golden throne?
 a. Apollo b. Zeus c. Hera d. Ares
28. What sort of divine creature was Arion, child of Poseidon?
 a. A white bull b. A horse c. A sea serpent d. A hawk
29. How did Zeus punish Hera for her part in a failed revolt against his reign?
 a. He divorced her. b. He showed he did not need her by giving birth to a daughter without her.
 c. He hung her from Mount Olympus with golden chains. d. He initiated an affair with (another) mortal woman.
30. Which goddess rejected the company of Callisto after she became pregnant with Zeus’ child?
 a. Hera b. Hestia c. Demeter d. Artemis
31. Why did Ares kill Halirrhothius, the son of Poseidon?
 a. Halirrhothius refused to worship Ares. b. Ares and Poseidon were fighting.
 c. Halirrhothius had assaulted Ares’ daughter, Alcippe. d. Halirrhothius had insulted Ares.
32. Angry at Zeus for having yet another affair, what did the jealous Hera do to try and kill the child of that affair, the infant Heracles?
 a. She caused a fire to start in the kitchen of the home. b. She convinced Aeolus to cause a powerful storm.
 c. She sent two snakes into his room. d. She sent a very contagious disease to the town of Tiryns.
33. Hephaestus, in a failed attempt to impregnate Athena, instead sired which child with Mother Earth?
 a. Erichthonius b. Philoprosyne c. Creon d. Euthenia
34. Suspicious that Zeus was attempting to conceal yet another affair from her, Hera sent _____ to watch over the cow whom she correctly guessed was secretly Zeus’ latest mistress.
 a. Argus b. Hermes c. Apollo d. Hephaestus
35. Who aided Hera in her attempt to seduce and distract Zeus from the fighting on the plain of Troy, saving the Greeks in the process?
 a. Thanatos b. Hypnos c. Artemis d. Eos
36. Which two sons of Zeus wrestled over the Delphic tripod until Zeus separated them with a blast of lightning?
 a. Apollo and Heracles b. Ares and Heracles c. Ares and Hephaestus d. Apollo and Hephaestus
37. In order to avoid an argument, what method did Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades devise to fairly divide up creation among themselves?
 a. They drew straws b. They held a strength contest
 c. They allowed Zeus to decide since he had defeated the Titans. d. They put it to a vote among the Olympians.
38. Which King of Tiryns, to jealous Hera’s delight, assigned Heracles his twelve labors?
 a. Eurystheus b. Perseus c. Linus d. Iphicles
39. In Book 21 of *The Iliad*, what god refuses to fight Leto, reasoning that it would be folly to vie with a wife of Zeus?
 a. Ares b. Apollo c. Poseidon d. Hermes
40. VISUAL: Which illustrated fruit below was consumed by Demeter's daughter in the Underworld?
 a. Bergamot b. Nectarine c. Apricot d. Pomegranate



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1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. D
9. C
10. C
11. A
12. B AND D BOTH ACCEPTED*
13. B
14. A
15. D
16. B
17. A
18. A
19. B
20. D
21. A
22. A
23. A
24. B
25. A
26. D
27. C
28. B
29. C
30. D
31. C
32. C
33. A
34. A
35. B
36. A
37. A
38. A
39. D
40. D

*The actual text of Homeric Hymn 4 says Hermes traded the lyre (answer choice D) for the caduceus. However, Apollodorus, who claims he is summarizing Homeric Hymn 4 in his *Bibliothēke 4* (cited on Theoi.com) says that Hermes traded the pipe (answer choice B). The Homeric Hymn as the original primary source is the more authoritative source but because Apollodorus claims he is citing Homer in his *Bibliothēke* and Question 12 did not specify which version of the myth we were citing, we are accepting both answer choices B and D for Question 12.