

2021 MEDUSA MYTHOLOGY EXAM SYLLABUS

Theme: Monstrous Mutations

Administration dates: February 22 - March 5, 2021

This year's theme, Monstrous Mutations, focuses on a varied cast of characters from classical mythology, both monsters and beings associated with monsters, whose origins and/or stories involve transformation.

*The questions for the Medusa Mythology Exam are **not** exclusively based on the keywords listed below. Studying beyond what is listed here is strongly encouraged. There may be questions on the exam that are not covered below but do fit within the parameters of the exam theme. Familiarity with the context of the mythological stories indicated by the keywords is necessary.*

Students are responsible for knowing both Greek and Latin names. Names on the exam will follow the spellings listed on etclassics.org. If a question refers to a specific version of a classical story, the question will cite the Greek or Roman author.

CATEGORY	KEYWORDS	RESOURCES
Humans who have undergone monstrous transformations.	-Cadmus and Harmonia -Cercopes -Glaucus -Medusa -Scylla	-Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 4 -Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 14 -Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 13 -Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> ; Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 4 -Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 13
Monstrous beings with transformative births and beings with monster-related origins, e.g. Spartoi arising from dragon teeth.	-Echidna's children -Erinyes, Gigantes -Pegasus -Python -Spartoi -Typhon	-Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> -Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> -Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> ; Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 4 -Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 1 -Ap. Rhodius, <i>Argonautica</i> 3; Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 3 -Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i>
Monstrous beings with transforming capabilities and non-monstrous beings who can transform into monsters.	-Achelous -Achlys/Deathmist -Empousa -Graiiai -Medusa -Proteus	-Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 8 -Hesiod, <i>Shield of Heracles</i> ; Nonnus, <i>Dionysiaca</i> 14 -Aristophanes, <i>Frogs</i> Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 4; (Pseudo-) Apollodorus, <i>Bibliotheca</i> 2 -Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> ; Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 4 -Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 4; Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> 8

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The following resources are recommended to perform well on the Medusa Mythology Exam. We have provided references to classical sources as well as to later mythological summaries and secondary sources. Since some questions on the exam may refer to a particular classical author's account of a myth, reading the primary sources is particularly recommended. N.B. Check the version of the myth cited in the "Resources" column in the syllabus above.

PRIMARY SOURCES

- Apollonius Rhodius, *Argonautica*
- Aristophanes, *Frogs*
- Hesiod, *Theogony*, *Shield of Heracles*
- Homer, *Odyssey*
- Nonnus, *Dionysiaca* Book 14
- Ovid, *Metamorphoses*
- (Pseudo-) Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca (The Library)*

SECONDARY SOURCES

- www.theoi.com
- Bulfinch, Thomas, *Greek and Roman Mythology*
- Grant, Michael and Hazel, John, *Who's Who in Classical Mythology*
- Graves, Robert, *Greek Gods and Heroes* and *The Greek Myths*
- Grimal, Pierre, *The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology*
- Guerber, H.A. *The Myths of Greece and Rome*
- Hamilton, Edith, *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*
- Lefkowitz, Mary, *Women in Greek Myth*
- Morford, Mark and Lenardon, Robert, *Classical Mythology*
- Oxford Classical Dictionary
- Tripp, Edward, *Handbook of Classical Mythology*

MYTHICAL RETELLINGS

*Please note the following are recommended for pleasure and are **not** authoritative sources for the exam questions.*

- Fry, Stephen, *Heroes*
- Fry, Stephen, *Mythos*

2020-2021 Medusa Mythology Exam -- Monstrous Mutations

1. What athletic contests were founded at Delphi to honor the site where a monstrous serpent was slain?
 - a. Olympic Games
 - b. Pythian Games
 - c. Nemean Games
 - d. Isthmian Games

2. Who punished the local nymphs in his area for not honoring him enough by transforming them into islands?
 - a. Achelous
 - b. Aetolus
 - c. Castalius
 - d. Acheron

3. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Proteus' daughter explains that Proteus will only answer questions if he is surprised at his midday nap when he comes out of the water and sleeps in a...
 - a. Bed of sea anemones
 - b. Flock of sheep
 - c. Pile of seaweed
 - d. Herd of seals

4. Who rejected an offer of love from someone else, which ultimately resulted in the object of his own desire being transformed into a sea monster?
 - a. Perseus
 - b. Cadmus
 - c. Glaucus
 - d. Pyramus

5. Who repaid their debt to Cadmus for nursing them back to health by helping him build the Cadmeia, the citadel of the future city of Thebes?
 - a. Erinyes
 - b. Spartoi
 - c. Minyads
 - d. Leucippides

6. According to Ovid, what did Medusa's head create when Perseus placed it on the beach, after he had rescued Andromeda?
 - a. Poisonous sea slugs
 - b. Coral
 - c. Starfish
 - d. Octopus ink

7. The Graiai, perpetually old and grey mythological women, are credited with being the personification of:
 - a. Gulls
 - b. Drowned sailors
 - c. Sea foam
 - d. Ships sunk at sea

8. The competition between suitors for Deianeira's hand in marriage unexpectedly produced something remarkably useful. What was it?
 - a. The helmet of invisibility
 - b. The cornucopia
 - c. Xanthus, the talking horse
 - d. The golden bough

9. What tribe of monsters was born from the blood of the castrated Uranus and later waged a war against the Olympian gods?
 - a. Gigantes (Giants)
 - b. Titans
 - c. Hecatoncheires (Hundred-handed)
 - d. Cyclopes

10. Whose transformation story embodies the warning "be careful what you eat?"
 - a. Medusa
 - b. Scylla
 - c. Echo
 - d. Glaucus

11. What unusual body part does an Empousa possess?
- a. An arm made of lead
 - b. A leg made of brass
 - c. A hand made of fire
 - d. A foot made of ivory
12. According to Homer, when traveling through the Straits of Messina, Odysseus lost how many men to the former nymph Scylla, one for each of her heads?
- a. One
 - b. Six
 - c. Ten
 - d. Twelve
13. In Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, how did the witch Circe transform Scylla from a nymph into a monster?
- a. She poisoned and enchanted Scylla's bathing pool.
 - b. She struck Scylla with her magic wand.
 - c. She gave Scylla the magic herb moly.
 - d. She asked her mother Hecate to transform Scylla.
14. Echidna's children were famously involved in the stories of several mythological heroes as trials or obstacles. Which of these mythological hero-monster pairs is **NOT** correct?
- a. Bellerophon - Chimera
 - b. Oedipus - Sphinx
 - c. Heracles - Nemean lion
 - d. Theseus - Orthrus
15. The Graiai take their parentage from Phorcys and this sea-goddess wife of his, whose name gives us the word for the class of mammals that live in the sea.
- a. Thetis
 - b. Galene
 - c. Hippolyta
 - d. Ceto

16. Which creature was supposedly named after the distant springs of Oceanus, where his snake-haired mother dwelled?
- Chimera
 - Typhon
 - Pegasus
 - Arion
17. Who completed Glaucus' transformation into a sea god by stripping away his mortality?
- Oceanus and Tethys
 - Poseidon and Amphitrite
 - Circe and Hecate
 - Hera and Athena
18. What group of fearsome goddesses oversaw retribution and vengeance, especially of parents murdered by their children -- fittingly, given their origin from Zeus's castration of Uranus?
- Moirai
 - Graiai
 - Erinyes
 - Melias
19. Cadmus was transformed into a snake for killing the snake which guarded _____ sacred spring.
- Ares'
 - Hera's
 - Zeus'
 - Dionysus'
20. According to Ovid, what caused the earth to produce many forms of life spontaneously, including the monstrous serpent known as Python?
- Blood falling from the castrated Uranus
 - The planting of dragon's teeth in the soil
 - The interaction of the returning sun's light with the moisture left over from the Great Flood
 - Meteor showers from crumbling constellations

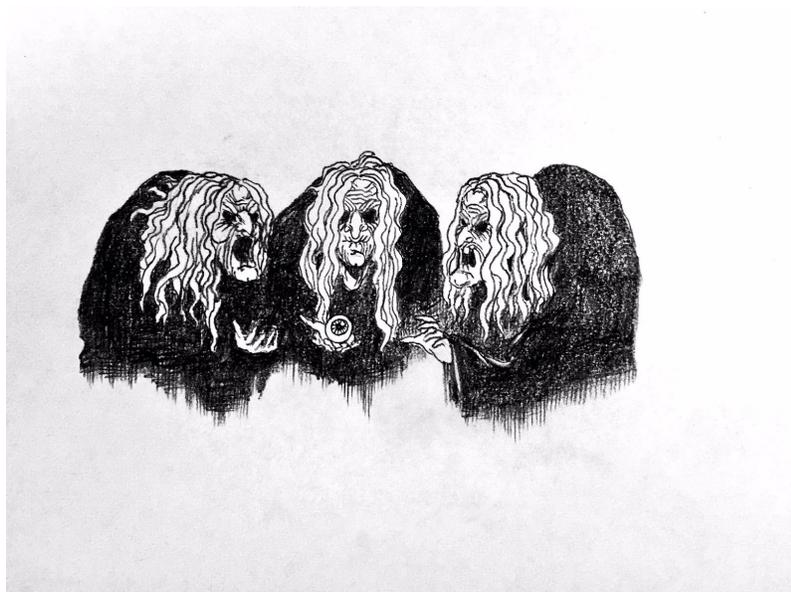
21. _____ sought Pegasus to help him on his quest to slay another fantastic creature, the Chimera.
- a. Bellerophon
 - b. Heracles
 - c. Theseus
 - d. Pirithous
22. Despite their diversely formed bodies and diverging mythological stories, at least three of Echidna's children by Typhon shared one noteworthy family resemblance. What monstrous trait did they have in common?
- a. Venomous saliva
 - b. Fire-breathing
 - c. Multiple heads
 - d. Multiple tails
23. According to Aristophanes, which of the following sequences of manifestations might best describe an Empousa's volatile appearance?
- a. Ox, mule, beautiful woman, dog
 - b. Bull, donkey, old woman, cat
 - c. Camel, horse, beautiful woman, weasel
 - d. Auroch, tiger, old woman, badger
24. Who was so scared of the monstrous Typhon that he and his mother fled to Egypt and hid in the form of fish, for which they were immortalized as the constellation Pisces?
- a. Hermes
 - b. Zeus
 - c. Ares
 - d. Eros
25. According to Ovid, who was finally able to slay Python after shooting him with a thousand arrows?

- a. Cupid
- b. Hercules
- c. Apollo
- d. Mercury



26. Despite his shapeshifting power, who was still unable to defeat a hero in a wrestling match?
- Achelous
 - Alcmaeon
 - Antaeus
 - Eryx
27. Which Spartos saw his family fall into ruin when his son was decapitated and the head paraded around by his wife?
- Udaeus
 - Hyperenor
 - Pelorus
 - Echion
28. What child of Echidna, famed for its poisonous breath and blood, was raised by Hera to serve as a test for Heracles, but was ultimately destroyed by him?
- Chimera
 - Hydra
 - Nemean lion
 - Sphinx
29. Instead of saying “he died,” Homer often uses the euphemism “mist covered his eyes.” What minor goddess was believed to personify this mist that preceded imminent death?
- Achlys
 - Moirai
 - Nyx
 - Aether
30. What creature, named for the sword that he carried, sprang from the blood of the decapitated Medusa alongside the winged horse Pegasus?
- Briareus
 - Arges
 - Chrysaor
 - Geryon
31. What magical property did dragon’s teeth have?
- They granted immortality to those who wore them
 - An arrowhead made from them caused an incurable wound
 - Armed men grew from them if they were planted in the earth
 - They caused any creature that consumed them to grow wings

32. Whose terrifying children included giant multi-headed dogs, an eagle with a penchant for liver, and a large and ferocious pig?
- Typhon
 - Pontus
 - Tartarus
 - Gaea
33. Angered by the Cercopes' knavery, which Olympian transformed them into monkeys?
- Dionysus
 - Ares
 - Hera
 - Zeus
34. Which of the following did *not* come into being as a result of Uranus' castration?
- Tisiphone
 - Medusa
 - Alecto
 - Aphrodite
35. What group of goddesses, whose ranks may have included Achlys, have a name meaning "deaths" and were thought to take the dead warriors' souls from the battlefield?
- Moirai
 - Eumenides
 - Horae
 - Keres
36. What mythological character might we imagine speaking this line: "Why couldn't I have been an only child?! Enyo! Pamphredo! Quit hogging the eye!"
- Deino
 - Allecto
 - Pandora
 - Celaeno



37. According to Homer's *Odyssey*, who catches the sea god Proteus to make him talk?
- a. Agamemnon
 - b. Menelaus
 - c. Achilles
 - d. Diomedes
38. Who punished the nurses of Dionysus by using a plant from Achlys to transform each of them into a monster with a horse tail, cow horns, a mane, fur, and long teeth?
- a. Hera
 - b. Nysa
 - c. Artemis
 - d. Latona
39. The monsters that Empousae are most closely associated with are the _____.
- a. Lamiae
 - b. Lemures
 - c. Manes
 - d. Umbrae
40. Medusa's head found its ultimate resting place on the aegis, which is frequently depicted covering the chest of _____.
- a. Hera
 - b. Artemis
 - c. Demeter
 - d. Athena



ANSWER KEY

1b

2a

3d

4c

5b

6b

7c

8b

9a

10d

11b

12b

13a

14d

15d

16c

17a

18c

19a

20c

21a

22c

23a

24d

25c

26a

27d

28b

29a

30c

31c

32a

33d

34b

35d

36a

37b

38a

39a

40d