

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 -Graiai -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*