

King Oedipus

Section A: Tragic Hero (the sad sacks of literature and real life) (20)

1. Using expository essay style, explain how the character of Oedipus fits the criteria for a literary Tragic Hero. Compare and contrast him with one other tragic hero from modern society.

Section B: Literary Elements – Constructed Response. Choose one question from this section. (10)

2. Throughout the play, Sophocles makes repeated reference to the notions of light, sight, darkness and night. Explain how this use of literal and figurative language helps to reveal his message about life and society.
3. Define irony. Explain how irony is evident in the play. How is it used to effectively reveal Sophocles' theme?

Section C: Personal Response (20)

4. What is fate? Are you a fatalist? With reference to personal experience, explain the logic of your reasoning. What are the implications for society that arise from a belief in Fatalism?