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Final Mythology Test Study Guide

Format: Multiple choice, fill in the blank, short response, essay response

To study, review any materials you have from class. Pay special attention to the important information on the study guide below.

**The Gods**

* There were three generations of gods: The first generation included Ouranos and Gaia, the second generation included Cronos, Rhea, and the Titans, and the third generation included Zeus and the Olympian gods.

**Ouranos**—known as the First One or Father Sky, father to the Titans, the Cyclopes, and the hundred-handed ones

**Gaia**—Known as Mother Earth, wife to Ouranos, mother of the Titans

**Cronos**—leader of the Titans who overthrew his father, Ouranos. He is the father of Zeus, Hades, Poseidon, Hera, Hestia, and Demeter. He swallowed all of his children except Zeus in order to keep them from overthrowing him. He lost his position as supreme ruler in the war of the gods.

**Rhea**—wife of Cronos. She hid her son, Zeus, from Uranus by giving him to a shepherd family to raise. Together, she and Zeus created a drink to make Cronos throw up his children. The war between the Olympians and the Titans then took place and resulted in Zeus becoming king of all gods when he defeated Cronos.

**The Titans**—large, strong gods of the second generation. They are as tall as trees and fought against Zeus and the Olympians in the war for power. They lost. Cronos, Rhea, Atlas, Epimetheus, and Prometheus are all Titans.

**Zeus**—lord of the sky and king of all gods. Famous for his thunderbolt. He overthrew his father Cronos and married his sister Hera.

**Poseidon**—king of the sea, creator of many creatures including the horse and dolphin. He also accidentally created the camel, hippopotamus, giraffe, donkey, and zebra. He created the horse as a gift for Demeter. He challenged Athena over the city of Athens and lost.

**Hades**—king of the underworld and the dead, husband of Persephone, whom he kidnapped.

**Hera**—goddess of the gods, goddess of women and marriage, wife of Zeus. She is a jealous goddess and known for punishing Zeus’s other women. She sent snakes down to kill Hercules as punishment for Zeus’s affair with Hercules’s mother, Alcmene.

**Demeter** –also known as Barley-mother, goddess of the moon, earth, and harvest. When her daughter was kidnapped by Hades, she became upset causing nothing to grow on earth, fields to become dry, trees to dry up, soil to crack, crops to shrivel, and animals and people to starve. She and Persephone are the reason we have seasons.

**Hestia**—goddess of the home and hearth, she watches over families and homes.

**Hephaestus**—god of the forges and blacksmithing, son of Zeus and Hera. He is the ugliest god and was thrown off Mount Olympus by his mother. He spends his time working in his forges located in the mountains and volcanoes. He created a golden bow and arrow and golden chariot for Apollo as gifts.

**Ares**—god of war, son of Zeus and Hera.

**Aphrodite**—goddess of love and beauty. Married to Hephaestus, mother of Eros in some myths.

**Athena**—born out of Zeus’ head fully-clothed and grown (which gave Zeus the worst headache he’d ever had). She is the patron of the city of Athens, which she fought for against Poseidon. She gave the people of Athens an olive tree. She is a skilled weaver and warrior and great appreciator of the arts. Arachne challenged her to a weaving contest.

**Artemis**—goddess of the hunt, sister of Apollo, daughter of Leto (a Titaness). Artemis wanted to remain a maiden forever. She received a silver bow as a gift.

**Apollo**-god of the sun, music, poetry, math, and medicine. Brother of Artemis, son of Leto. He is known to be the most beautiful of all the male gods.

**Hermes**—the messenger god. He is fast, clever, cheerful, and sneaky. He stole (his brother) Apollo’s sheep. He is often pictured wearing a pot-shaped hat and winged sandals.

**Dionysus**—the god of wine and celebration.

**Pan**—the goat god, player of reed pipes. Pan inspired the word “panic.”

**Places/Geography**

**The Underworld**—where the souls of the dead live. Cerberus, the three-headed dog guards the gates of the underworld. Coins must be given to the ferryman to cross the River Styx (put on the eyes or under the tongues of the dead).

**Elysian Fields**—Where the “best” souls go in the underworld to spend all eternity in joy and celebration.

**Asphodel Meadow**—where the “okay” souls go. This is the place in the underworld for souls who are neither good nor bad. Here, souls spend all of eternity waiting endlessly for nothing.

**Tartarus**—the deepest, darkest part of the underworld reserved for the most evil of souls, including Tantalus.

**SISYPHUS**, a famous soul of Hades, is doomed to roll a boulder up a hill for all eternity.

**Tantalus**- a famous soul of Hades, is doomed to be eternally hungry and thirsty.

**Mount Olympus**—home of the gods, located in the sky.

**Important Mythological Figures**

**The Muses**—nine female figures who are responsible for inspiring artists, particularly poets, musicians, and dancers.

**The Furies**—The main job of these three terrifying beings was to punish evil-doers, especially the souls of those who escaped punishment while living.

**Prometheus and Epimetheus**—Titan brothers. Prometheus was responsible for bringing fire to the humans against Zeus’s will. As punishment, Zeus sent Pandora with a box of evils to Epimetheus for a wife.

**Pandora**—the first woman on Earth, made from clay by Hephaestus, and given to Epimetheus for a wife. She is responsible for unleashing all of the evils into the world including disease, old age, famine, insanity, and spite.

**Hercules**—son of Zeus and Alcmene. Known for his strength, Hercules, as a baby, killed the snakes sent by Hera that were meant to kill him! He completed twelve impossible tasks to make up for his terrible deeds done as an adult.

**Arachne**—a skilled weaver who challenges Athena to a weaving contest and loses. As punishment for insulting the gods, she is turned into a spider.

**Persephone**—daughter of Demeter, wife of Hades, and queen of the underworld. She is the reason we have the seasons. She spends six months in the underworld with Hades (fall and winter) and the remaining months (spring and summer) with her mother. This is because she ate the seeds from a pomegranate.

**Psyche**—in love with Eros, said to have been turned into night creatures (like bats and owls) OR that she was reunited with Eros and watches over other couples.

**Achilles**—son of Thetis, hero of the Trojan War. His weakness was his heel. His mother Thetis dipped him in the River Styx to immortalize him. Paris shot him in the heel and killed him during the Trojan War.

**Phaethon**—son of Apollo. Suffering from extreme pride, Phaethon tried to fly the sun chariot, but lost control, causing deserts and ice caps to form on earth. He was killed by Zeus.

**Narcissus**—a very handsome but conceited young man who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water. He pined away for himself, leaving a flower behind in his place.

**Hundred-handed ones**—children of Ouranos and Gaia; they threw boulders at the Titans during the war of the gods, helping the Olympians to win.

**Cyclopes**—children of Gaia and Uranus, given to Hephaestus by Hera to help create objects in the underground forges. They created the thunderbolt for Zeus.

**Remember this: Hubris** is excessive pride. This is the downfall or flaw of many mythological characters.