# The Odyssey/Mythology Study Guide

The following information *could be* on the test.

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| The 12 Great Olympians | Who are they, and what, if anything, did they do in the Odyssey? |
| Zeus |  |
| Hera |  |
| Poseidon |  |
| Hades |  |
| Hestia |  |
| Athena |  |
| Apollo |  |
| Artemis |  |
| Aphrodite |  |
| Hermes |  |
| Ares |  |
| Hephaestus |  |

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| --- | --- |
| Characters in the Odyssey | What were they involved in? |
| Aeolus |  |
| Alcinous |  |
| Antinous |  |
| Argos |  |
| Athena |  |
| Calypso |  |
| Charybdis |  |
| Cicones |  |
| Circe |  |
| Eumaeus |  |
| Eurycleia |  |
| Eurymachus |  |
| Helios |  |
| Homer |  |
| Odysseus |  |
| Paris |  |
| Penelope |  |
| Polyphemus |  |
| Poseidon |  |
| Scylla |  |
| Teiresias |  |
| Telemachus |  |

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| Other things to possibly know: |  |
| Who wrote The Odyssey? |  |
| When was The Odyssey written? |  |

**The Odyssey Review Questions – Part II**

**Father and Son**

1. Why must Odysseus go first to the forest and to the swineherd's hut rather than to his own palace?
2. Why does Odysseus conceal his identity?
3. How does the swineherd react upon seeing Telemachus?
4. How are the dangers Telemachus faces now similar to those Odysseus faces, too?
5. Which of the two is better prepared for the coming danger? How?

**Beggar at the Manor**

1. What is a symbol? (Literary term)
2. Who is Argos?
3. What does Argos symbolize?
4. Why is this particular character trait so important to Odysseus right now?
5. Who can Odysseus trust at this point?

**Test of the Bow**

Odysseus visits Penelope, but does not reveal his identity to her. Instead, he tells her that he knows Odysseus, that he understands Odysseus suffered greatly in his travels to return home after the war, and that he believes Odysseus will return home to Ithaca very soon. *(The information in italics on p. 1150 is VERY misleading. Penelope loves and misses her husband, and has kept up an elaborate hoax on the suitors in an effort to keep from having to marry any of them. Unfortunately, the suitors discovered her deception, and are now forcing Penelope to decide whom she will marry. That is the only reason she comes up with the “Test of the Bow.”)*

1. Why does Odysseus decide to keep his identity secret from Penelope?

Odysseus’s wife, Penelope, is tired of all these men living at her house and trying to marry her (they all think Odysseus must be dead). She designs an impossible contest to distract them until Odysseus finally shows up.

1. What are the two parts of the contest? What will the winner get?
2. Odysseus asks his two old servants to help him. Who are they?
3. Why does Odysseus reveal his identity to these two servants?
4. What is Odysseus’ plan for killing all of the suitors?
5. How do the gods intervene to help Odysseus win the contest?

**Death in the Great Hall & The Trunk of the Olive Tree**

1. What happens to Antinous? How does Eurymachus respond to this? What does he do to try and save himself?
2. Who shows up to help Odysseus & his allies win the fight against the suitors? What signal does she give so everyone knows?
3. How does Penelope test Odysseus to see if it was really him? How does he react?