

Please answer **TWO** of the following questions in English. (100%)

**Question 1 (50%)**

The following passage is taken from Euripides' *Medea*. The first episode of the play begins with a speech of Medea in which she addresses to the Chorus of Corinthian Women about her feelings and thoughts of being betrayed by her husband. Please read Medea's speech carefully and give a close reading of your understanding of it.

MEDEA: Women of Corinth, I have come outside to you  
Lest you should be indignant with me; for I know  
That many people are overproud, some when alone,  
And others when in company. And those who live  
Quietly, as I do, get a bad reputation.  
For a just judgment is not evident in the eyes  
When a man at first sight hates another, before  
Learning his character, being in no way injured;  
And a foreigner especially must adapt himself.  
I'd not approve of even a fellow-countryman  
Who by pride and want of manners offends his neighbors.  
But on me this thing has fallen so unexpectedly,  
It has broken my heart. I am finished. I let go  
All my life's joy. My friends, I only want to die.  
It was everything to me to think well of one man,  
And he, my own husband, has turned out wholly vile.  
Of all things which are living and can form a judgment  
We women are the most unfortunate creatures.  
Firstly, with an excess of wealth it is required  
For us to buy a husband and take for our bodies  
A master; for not to take one is even worse.  
And now the question is serious whether we take  
A good or bad one; for there is no easy escape  
For a woman, nor can she say no to her marriage.  
She arrives among new modes of behaviour and manners,

And needs prophetic power, unless she has learnt at home,  
How best to manage him who shares the bed with her.  
And if we work out all this well and carefully,  
And the husband lives with us and lightly bears his yoke,  
Then life is enviable. If not, I'd rather die.  
A man, when he's tired of the company in his home,  
Goes out of the house and puts an end to his boredom  
And turns to a friend or companion of his own age.  
But we are forced to keep our eyes on one alone.  
What they say of us is that we have a peaceful time  
Living at home, while they do the fighting in war.  
How wrong they are! I would very much rather stand  
Three times in the front of battle than bear one child.  
Yet what applies to me does not apply to you.  
You have a country. Your family home is here.  
You enjoy life and the company of your friends.  
But I am deserted, a refugee, thought nothing of  
By my husband,—something he won in a foreign land.  
I have no mother or brother, nor any relation  
With whom I can take refuge in this sea of woe.  
This much then is the service I would beg from you:  
If I can find the means or devise any scheme  
To pay my husband back for what he has done to me,—  
Him and his father-in-law and the girl who married him,—  
Just to keep silent. For in other ways a woman  
Is full of fear, defenseless, dreads the sight of cold  
Steel; but, when once she is wronged in the matter of love,  
No other soul can hold so many thoughts of blood.

**Question 2 (50%)**

The following narrative is taken from *Genesis 39* in which Joseph is falsely charged by Potiphar's wife. Please read this narrative carefully and give a close reading of your understanding of it.

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; there is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin

against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, that she called unto the men of her house, and spoke unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: and it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: and it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.