

SIXTH ANNUAL EUROPEAN COMPETITION IN
"EXPLORING ANCIENT GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE"
EXAM QUESTIONS FOR THE
THIRD GRADE LYCEUM
IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND MEXICO
OF MARCH 6th 2007

Subject: Euripides' *Alcestis* lines 280 – 294

Alcestis	: Ἄδμηθ', ὀρᾶς γὰρ τάμ' ἀ πράγμαθ' ὡς ἔχει, λέξαι θέλω σοι πρὶν θανεῖν ἃ βούλομαι. ἐγὼ σε πρεσβεύουσα κἀντὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς καταστήσασα φῶς τόδ' εἰσορᾶν, θνήσκω, παρὸν μοι μὴ θανεῖν, ὑπὲρ σέθεν, ἀλλ' ἄνδρα τε σχεῖν Θεσσαλῶν ὃν ἠθέλον, καὶ δῶμα ναίειν ὄλβιον τυραννίδι.	280
	οὐκ ἠθέλησα ζῆν ἀποσπασθεῖσά σου σὺν παισὶν ὀρφανοῖσιν, οὐδ' ἐφεισάμην ἠβῆς, ἔχουσ' ἐν οἷς ἔτερπόμην ἐγὼ. καίτοι σ' ὁ φύσας χῆ τεκούσα προὔδοσαν, καλῶς μὲν αὐτοῖς κατθανεῖν ἦκον βίον, καλῶς δὲ σῶσαι παῖδα κεύκλεῶς θανεῖν. μόνος γὰρ αὐτοῖς ἦσθα, κούτις ἐλπίς ἦν σοῦ κατθανόντος ἄλλα φητύσειν τέκνα .	285
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VOCABULARY

πρεσβεύουσα (*πρεσβεύω*) : honouring (to honour)
καταστήσασα (*καθίστημι*) : giving the possibility
παρὸν μοι : despite having the possibility
ὑπὲρ σέθεν: for you, for your sake
ναίω: to reside
ὄλβιος: happy, wealthy
οὐδ' ἐφεισάμην (simple past tense of *φείδομαι*): I did not regret, I did not take into account/I have not paid much attention
χῆ= καὶ ἠ; *κεύκλεῶς* = καὶ εὐκλεῶς; *κούτις* = καὶ οὐ τις
φητύω: to give birth

A. Questions of comprehension

- 1α.** Translate the lines 287 – 294 (*οὐκ ἠθέλησα...τέκνα*).
- 1β.** Give the central point of the meaning of the whole text in 10 - 15 lines.
- 2α₁** For the words: *παῖδα* (*παῖς –παιδός*), *ψυχῆς* , *βίος*, write as many derivatives and compounds as you know in European languages.
- 2α₂** Write at least three (3) other words from the text, as they appear in the text, or their derivatives and their compounds, which have survived in your mother tongue or in other European languages.
- 2β** *οὐκ ἠθέλησα ζῆν ἀποσπασθεῖσά σου* (στ. 287):
Write the sentence in plural.

B. Questions of elaboration

- 1.** Which literary genre does Euripides' *Alcestis* belong to?
Name three (3) other pieces of work of the same poet.
- 2.** How Alcestis is presented in this text (lines 280-294)?
Give your answer in no more than 15 lines.
- 3.** Compare the image of the woman as presented in the text to the image of the woman nowadays.
Develop your answer in no more than 30 lines.

Note: You must answer **all** the questions of comprehension and **two (2)** of the questions of elaboration.