**Oedipus Rex – the character**

1. Make a list of Oedipus’ character traits and examine which of these characteristics could be described as strong and which as weak or “flaws”.

2. How do these strengths/weaknesses influence the way he acts?

3. What were the motives for his actions throughout the play?

4. What were the effects of his actions on himself and others?

5. What is your view of Oedipus at the end of the play?

6. How did Sophocles intend for audiences to feel towards Oedipus at the end of the play?

7. Did Oedipus bring his fate upon himself or was it pre-ordained?

8. Is Oedipus a truly “tragic hero”?

**Some other essay topics:**

1. What appalls us in this play is that Oedipus is essentially innocent. Is this your impression of *Oedipus Rex*?

2. “By the end of the play Oedipus has lost almost everything he valued, but even in his defeat we respect and admire him.” How far do you agree with this view of Oedipus?

3. “I am the child of Fortune” (Oedipus). Discuss the significance of this comment in light of the play’s themes.