

## ***OEDIPUS THE KING – SOPHOCLES***

### **I. Oedipus, Priest and Creon (5-12)**

1. How does Oedipus characterize himself?
2. What is his attitude toward the suppliants?
3. What conditions in Thebes does the Priest describe?
4. How do the suppliants view Oedipus?
5. What step has Oedipus already taken to deal with the problem?
6. According to Creon what did Apollo say must be done in order to cure Thebes of its pollution?
7. According to Creon what were the circumstances of Laius's death?
8. What is Oedipus resolved to do?

### **II. Chorus (12-14)**

9. What conditions in Thebes does the Chorus describe?

### **III. Oedipus, Chorus and Tiresias (14-27)**

10. Why does Oedipus summon Tiresias?
11. What is Tiresias's reaction to Oedipus's request for help?
12. What accusation does Oedipus make about Tiresias?
13. What does Tiresias reveal to Oedipus as a result of the king's angry accusation?
14. What suspicion does Oedipus begin to harbor about Creon?
15. What superiority does Oedipus claim over Tiresias?
16. What does Tiresias predict will happen to Oedipus?

### **IV. Chorus (27-28)**

17. What is the Chorus's view of Tiresias's accusations against Oedipus?

### **V. Creon, Chorus, Oedipus and Jocasta (29-48)**

18. How does Creon defend himself against Oedipus's accusation?
19. What does Oedipus threaten to do?
20. What is Jocasta's view of the prophecy?
21. Why is Oedipus frightened by the information given by Jocasta?
22. What happened to the one surviving witness to the killing of Laius?
23. Why did Oedipus go to the Delphic Oracle and what was he told there?
24. What does Oedipus fear?
25. What detail in Jocasta's story of Laius's death does Oedipus take comfort in?
26. How does Jocasta try to reassure Oedipus?
27. What request does Oedipus make?

**VI. Chorus (48-49)**

28. What concern does the Chorus express in the fourth stanza?

**VII. Jocasta, Messenger, Oedipus and Chorus (49-61)**

29. What news does the messenger deliver to Oedipus?

30. What is Oedipus's reaction to the news?

31. What further information does the Messenger give to Oedipus?

32. Why does Jocasta ask Oedipus not to seek out the herdsman and then leave?

33. How does Oedipus interpret Jocasta's emotional behavior?

**VII. Chorus (62-63)**

34. Who do they suggest are possible parents of Oedipus?

**IX. Oedipus, Chorus, Messenger and Shepherd (63-69)**

35. By whom had the shepherd been employed?

36. What revelation does the shepherd make?

**X. Chorus (70-71)**

37. What horrible fact with regard to Oedipus's marriage does the Chorus point out?

**XI. Second Messenger, Chorus, Oedipus and Creon (71-83)**

38. What news about Jocasta and about Oedipus does the second messenger announce?

39. What does Oedipus intend to do and why?

40. Whom does Oedipus blame for his sorrows?

41. What reason does Oedipus give for his self-blinding?

42. What requests does Oedipus make of Creon?

43. What future does Oedipus foresee for his two daughters?

44. What important truth about life does Creon point out to Oedipus?

45. What general lesson does the Chorus draw from the example of Oedipus' life?