

LATIN

Paper 0480/01
Language

Key Messages

- Candidates should write their translations on alternate lines.
- Translations should be given in sensible English.
- In the comprehension section, candidates should adhere to the rubric.
- Full detail should be given in response to comprehension questions.
- Candidates should take time to think over and check their answers.

General Comments

Candidates should write their translations on alternate lines. Writing on alternate lines allows space for candidates to revise and alter their translations and for the Examiner to see clearly what is intended on the answer paper. It may be advantageous for teachers to encourage this practice when setting written translation work so that, when it comes to the examination, it will be a matter of routine for candidates to write on alternate lines. There is no requirement nor desirability for candidates to sub-divide the translation into blocks of their own choosing. It is important that candidates read all the information that is given and make use of the glossed words. Candidates should check their translations, for example, how likely is it that Hasdrubal would have 130,000 elephants accompanying his army?

Candidates should also be encouraged to use their time wisely. A number of candidates, as happened last year, wrote out drafts before a final version was settled on. The consequence for some was that they did not complete the comprehension section, presumably due to a lack of time.

Candidates are expected to translate into sensible English not rely on a word-for-word substitution translation. This is particularly relevant with the positioning of a main verb. It may be that parts of *esse* can be translated in the place that they appear in a sentence in the Latin but this is not usually the case when other main verbs are at the end of the sentence. Some vocabulary items were mis-remembered or confused – *patria* for *pati*, or ‘appropriate’ for *appropinquant*.

Comments on Individual Questions

Section A Translation:

The majority of candidates got off to a good start with the opening sentences of the passage. The main story line seemed accessible and comprehensible to most and, as in previous years, candidates were almost always able to get back on track after a section in which they had experienced difficulties.

Participles and how to incorporate them into a sentence proved a good differentiator – *profecti* and *appropinquant* early on and the ablative absolute and plurality of *gradibus aedificatis* later. The latter also required candidates to think about the sequencing of events – they hid after they had built the steps – even though the Latin presented it the other way round. Word order and sequencing were quite important in the passage as was positioning, common errors were made with words like *priusquam*, *prope* and *post*. In the phrases *priusquam ad frequentia domibus loca*, *prope templum maceriam invenerunt* and *post maceriam se celaverunt*, there was a tendency among some candidates to ignore word order and agreement to give translations like ‘a place with crowded houses’, ‘near the wall of the temple’ and ‘after they hid themselves’.

primo and *primus* also required candidates to differentiate between the adverbial and adjectival usages. While *necesse erat* was generally well handled, there was a tendency for *eis* in the same clause to be omitted.

There were a number of deponent verbs in the passage both in full form and as participles, most were handled reasonably well but confusions occurred with *colloquor* and 'place' while it was also important in this section to be clear who was speaking with whom. Inevitably, the *cum* in *cum quo* was translated as 'when'. The *dum* clause was probably the least well done overall, coming back to the correct sequencing of tenses. Generally the force of the *qui custodiret* was well handled, as was the consecutive clause, although *quamquam* seemed to be a vocabulary issue for a number of candidates. The perennial confusion between *tamen* and *tandem* remains.

Many candidates endeavoured to render the translation into good modern English. As has been mentioned already, there were some mis-translations but they were surpassed by candidates' efforts in using, for example, words like 'threw' or 'hurled' for *emiserunt*.

Section B Comprehension:

The vast majority of candidates gained some success in this section. Candidates need to follow the instructions and the lemma for each question as these will guide them through the passage.

Most responded well to the passage though there were some issues of position in some cases, **(d)**, **(e)**, **(f)** and **(g)** all required knowledge of positional words, and **(h)** and **(i)** required knowledge of direction of movement. **(b)**, **(d)** and **(k)** also required candidates to express the force of comparative and superlative correctly to gain the full mark. Possibly the least well known word was *aciem* required to gain full credit in **(i)** **(iii)**. Candidates should also be encouraged to check the importance of singular and plural e.g. for *fossam*, *munimenta*, *muros* and *signa*.

The vast majority of candidates spotted *audacter* as the word required for the answer to **(h)** **(i)**. It was not always translated appropriately. In this sort of question the rubric is quite clear asking for 'the Latin word' or 'the Latin phrase'. Therefore, writing out the whole lemma for **(h)** as the answer was not what was required by the question. In response to **Question (I)**, two derivations only are required as highlighted in bold on the question paper. It is expected that candidates will write down the Latin word and its derivation both spelled correctly. Most candidates gave two correct derivations.

LATIN

Paper 0480/02
Literature

Key Messages

- The strongest candidates were able to comment on both style and content in the prescribed texts and produce personal responses to the literature.
- Successful answers to the 10 mark questions included references to a range of literary techniques and specific examples from the set text.

General Comments

Candidates are required to answer questions on the prescribed texts. Questions test their comprehension, translation and appreciation of the literature. Candidates are expected to demonstrate an understanding of some of the elements of Roman civilization and an awareness of the motives and attitudes of people of a different time and culture, while considering Rome's legacy to the modern world with the aim of helping them to develop a greater understanding of a range of aesthetic, ethical, linguistic, political, religious and social issues.

Candidates should be able to describe character, action and context, select details from the texts, explain meanings and references, translate sections of the texts and explain matters relating to the social and historical context. In addition, candidates should be able to analyse and evaluate style, tone and metre, select evidence to make judgments on the social and historical context and make a reasoned personal response to the literature.

The overall standard was high, and most candidates showed a sound level of understanding regarding both Virgil and the prose authors: Livy, Nepos and Seneca. Many candidates translated the prescribed texts with assurance and accuracy and answered proficiently on the majority of the questions. A minority of candidates found the translation questions challenging but still displayed a comprehension of the stories of the set texts. Performance on scansion seemed less secure than in previous years although many were able to scan competently. Both the verse and prose selections were well appreciated and candidates were able to comment on style and content in the prescribed texts and produce personal responses to the literature. Examination technique was on the whole very good and there were few who did not appear to know how to approach the 10 mark questions. Candidates should be reminded to attempt to answer all questions; any attempt has the potential to gain marks while an unanswered question definitely gains no marks.

Comments on Individual Questions

Section A: Virgil *Aeneid* Book 2

Question 1

- (a) Answered well by many candidates.
- (b) Candidates were, on the whole, able to comment with confidence on the content and style features within these lines and showed a pleasing grasp of how Virgil made the description vivid. In order to gain full marks, candidates needed to quote the Latin.
- (c) Pathos was well understood by the majority of candidates and many were able to discuss the extreme nature of the change in Hector while some referred successfully to his defence of his fatherland.

- (d) Generally answered well with most candidates giving a fluent translation. There were many appealing renderings of lines 12-13 while a common error was to mistranslate *quae tantae tenuere morae*.

Question 2

- (a) Many successful answers referred to Anchises raising his eyes and hands and referring to Jupiter as *omnipotens*.
- (b) Candidates were able to translate fluently although some missed *per umbras*. There were many interesting and equally valid renderings of line 8.
- (c) The majority of candidates gave the correct answer in (i) as well as identifying the forest on Mount Ida for (ii) and the idea that they should follow the star/head in that direction for (iii).
- (d) Answers frequently identified Ascanius although Neptune and Nepos were common misconceptions.
- (e) The importance of speed and Anchises' change of heart were frequently referred to as well as the people he wanted to be saved.

Question 3

The question was generally answered well and provoked some fantastic answers in defence of Virgil. Successful answers referred to the miserable and gloomy aspects of the story but then picked a range of literary techniques which make the story interesting and gave specific examples from the set text. There were engaging responses about how gloom and misery can still be interesting as well as discussions of the hopeful nature of Aeneas' mission and the depiction of family loyalty. Some candidates wrote at great length, but there were many succinct answers which received full marks.

Section B: Two Centuries of Roman Prose

Question 4

- (a) Most candidates named the Persians.
- (b) This question was answered well with the majority of candidates identifying the need for fleets and troops.
- (c) For (i), candidates were commonly able to give the number 460 talents and understood that all the states were expected to pay towards it for (ii).
- (d) Answered correctly by the vast majority.
- (e) Successful answers referred to the fact that Aristides was in charge of a vast amount of money during his life but that he died in poverty leaving barely enough money to be buried.
- (f) Most candidates were able to translate fluently.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates gained full marks by showing an understanding of Seneca's assertion that silence for study is not as necessary as it seems.
- (b) Most candidates were able to identify the fact that he lived above the bath house.
- (c) Many answers referred successfully to causing a person to hate their ears / sense of hearing.
- (d) The majority of candidates explained clearly how Seneca's description was vivid and talked about the different sorts of sounds described as well as alliteration.

- (e) On the whole, these lines were translated fluently with some wonderful renderings of *scordalum* such as roisterer.
- (f) Generally answered less well with the majority misunderstanding *mercem* to mean the seller rather than the merchandise and gaining one mark for 'sausage seller and pastry seller', although some did get the right answer.

Question 6

Many candidates approached this question with vitality, giving spirited acclamations of Hannibal's excellence as a leader supported with specific references to the text. The audacity of the plan itself and the fact that the journey across the Alps was in fact achieved was often referred to as well as Hannibal realising when the men needed a rest or a stirring speech, finding a different route, getting the men to split the rocks and instigating the building of the zig zag path. Candidates also identified that it was not a great time to cross the Alps and Hannibal failed to find reliable guides as well as misleading the men about how the journey down would be easier, not to mention underestimating the slippery snow and letting the animals die.