



EXAMINERS' REPORTS

LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATES IN LATIN LANGUAGE AND LATIN LANGUAGE & ROMAN CIVILISATION

JANUARY 2018

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LEVEL 1 LATIN LANGUAGE

January 2018

UNIT 9511

General Comments

The overall standard was encouraging with the majority of candidates showing a good understanding of the storyline. Translation questions worked as the best discriminators, although present participles also proved to be a challenge to many, even when part of a comprehension question. It was pleasing to see almost all candidates were only referring to the information contained in the lemma and reading the questions carefully.

- Q.1 Almost all answered this correctly; just a few candidates omitted 'old man' and just gave the glossed *dives* which was not considered adequate for a mark.
- Q.2 Almost all answered this correctly.
- Q.3 The most common error here was to ignore *numquam*. Only a few candidates confused *habito* with *habeo*.
- Q.4 *simulac* was a good discriminator here (often translated incorrectly as 'when') and the pronoun *ille* caused difficulties for weaker candidates.
- Q.5 (i) Some candidates failed to give enough detail for 4/4. However the majority scored at least 3/4 by saying that Mucius no longer had much money *vel sim*.
- (ii) *vivebat* was being tested here: answers such as 'he spent it' were considered too vague and not close enough to the Latin to be credited.
- (iii) Almost all answered this correctly.
- Q.6 The accusative present participle challenged several candidates, many of whom simply turned it into a verb with Gaius as its subject; 'watched' was not accepted for *conspexit*.
- Q.7 Most candidates answered correctly. Those who did not, failed to see that *Mucium* was accusative and put 'D' rather than 'C'.
- Q.8 Pleasingly, most candidates translated the imperative correctly and identified *serve* as vocative. Some omitted *clamavit* – arguably the easier part of the sentence.
- Q.9 (i) There were several different ways in which candidates expressed *advenire* – 'to arrive' (translation in DVL) was given by some, but the more literal 'to come to' was also accepted. Those who failed to translate the infinitive correctly at all often also omitted *domum*.
- (ii) Generally well done, although a small number of candidates strayed beyond the lemma and gave *festina* rather than *celeriter*.
- (iii) Generally well done.

- Q.10 Only a small minority of candidates knew *risit*, but most scored 1/2.
- Q.11 Here the participle *legens* was handled well by many, although some did not read it carefully and said Milo was *writing* letters, rather than reading them. Some careless errors giving a singular for *epistulas* also slipped in. A few candidates did not give 'full details' and did not include the detail of Milo expecting or waiting for Mucius in their answers.
- Q.12 Generally well done.
- Q.13 (i) A number of candidates did not know the verb *taceo*.
- (ii) Comparatives often serve as a good discriminator; here was no exception, particularly as this was irregular. Many candidates gave answers such as *he had never seen such a big house / a house as big* which does not adequately convey the comparative adjective. Only the very best candidates were able to identify the root meaning as 'big' rather than 'good'.
- Q.14 Mostly well done.
- Q.15 Again, as in Q8, it was encouraging to see how many candidates successfully translated the imperative. Not all recognised *quam*, but otherwise, this was generally well done as a translation.
- Q.16 *statim* continues to be confused with *sto*.
- Q.17 Many candidates paid close attention to the preposition, but 'to the garden' was not accepted for *in hortum*.
- Q.18 (i) Generally well done.
- (ii) *tamen* and *tandem* (in the following question) were often confused with one another or omitted entirely. Other errors included mistaking *poterant* for the pluperfect *potuerant* or ignoring it and not rendering *invenire* as an infinitive.
- Q.19 A good discriminator. One or more of the following areas proved a challenge to several candidates:
tandem (see above)
eius (often ignored)
-que: many included an *and* in their translation but did not always put it in the correct position to show they had in fact translated this Latin word.
lente (occasionally ignored)
- However, once again, very many candidates coped well with the participle, some translating it equally well using a relative clause in English.
- Q.20 Almost all candidates chose the correct answer.
- Q.21 (i) This was quite well done, although a number of candidates ignored *nunc* and lost a mark. Some wrote '*why are you here*' which was only awarded 1/2.
- (ii) *aeger* was glossed so candidates needed to recognise the superlative for their answer to be credited.
- (iii) Very well done generally although answers B,C and D were also occasionally offered.

- Q.22 Usually the tense of the verb does not matter in comprehension questions, but in this case, it did affect the meaning of the answer, so only present or future tense translations of *do* were allowed (or the indirect equivalents).
- Q.23 (i) This was well done by most.
(ii) Generally well done.
- Q.24 Very well done.
- Q.25 (i) Most candidates scored at least 3/4 (some only gave details of what one brother had been left in Milo's will) although a small number mixed up the brothers.
(ii) There were plenty of very sensible and morally sound suggestions for this last question.

Conclusion

This paper allowed candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, with very few candidates omitting any questions entirely. It was pleasing to see how many candidates were successfully dealing with imperatives and prohibitions, which often provide a challenge to those studying Latin at this stage. The vast majority of candidates followed the storyline up until its conclusion and wrote good, accurate translations.

LEVEL 2 LATIN LANGUAGE

January 2018

UNIT 9521

General Comments

This session saw a very large reduction in entries: just 14 from six Centres. Over half the candidates performed extremely well, experiencing little difficulty with any of the three sections. The rest struggled with both vocabulary and syntax. One candidate failed to answer any of Question 3.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

All answered Q1(a) correctly. In Q1(b i), some did not know *gesserant*. Q1(b ii) was answered correctly. In Q1(b iii) some reversed the subject and object in *Graeci Troianos vicerant*. Most answered Q1(c), (d) and (e) correctly. In Q1(f) several omitted to include *in insula* for the third mark. For Q1(f) some wrote that the Greeks visited the island to get food and water, rather than for the reason that they did not have these items; such answers showed an understanding of the storyline and were accepted. In Q1(h), many chose H instead of G for the fourth mark; this showed a weakness in identifying purpose clauses. Because there were three possible points to make in answering Q1(i) for only two marks, nearly all gained both marks.

Question 2

homines ab Ulixē missi ad mediam insulam festinaverunt.

There were a few problems with the participial phrase, but the rest was done well.

brevi tempore multa animalia conspexerunt. etiam leo inter cetera aderat.

Most correctly identified the time phrase. Some did not know *etiam*; others treated *aderat* as if it were *erat*. 'Between the others' was not a sensible choice for *inter cetera*.

Graeci timebant, sed leo eos non oppugnavit. mox Graeci magnam villam viderunt.

This sentence was translated accurately by most.

cum villae appropinquavissent, aliquis ianuam subito aperuit.

The main problem here was vocabulary, with *aliquis* and *aperuit* often unknown.

femina pulcherrima homines salutavit. deinde capita eorum virga tetigit.

A few omitted the superlative. Some did not know how to handle the ablative case.

'abite' inquit 'in haram meam.'

'Go!' was not sufficient for *abite*. One candidate thought that 'he' was the subject of *inquit*. *unus e Graecis, qui perterritus erat, villae non appropinquaverat.*

'One Greek' was accepted for *unus e Graecis*. Several did not recognise the pluperfect.

post arborem steterat, ut cognosceret quid accideret.

Some did not recognise the verb *steterat*, either in meaning or tense. For *cognosceret*, 'see' was accepted but 'understand' was not. Most recognised the purpose clause.

postquam omnes comites in sues versos vidit, ad Ulixem cucurrit.

A few could not handle the perfect participle; the rest was done well.

'domine,' inquit, 'in hac insula habitat saga dira.

Some did not know *dira*.

omnes nostros amicos in sues vertit. noli ei appropinquare.'

A few did not know *nostros*. Half did not identify *noli* as introducing a prohibition.

Ulixes tamen statim ad villam iter fecit.

Most handled this well.

Question 3

Q3(a) and (b) were answered correctly. In Q3(c i) several failed to understand the question, simply giving the meaning of *insula*. Most chose correctly for Q3(c ii). Most answered 3(d) correctly. In Q3(e) a few did not note the comparative. Q3(f), (g) and (h) were generally answered correctly. In Q3(i) a few were defeated by vocabulary. Q3(j) was answered correctly by all. For Q3(k) any five of six points were needed for the five marks; almost all candidates gained all five marks, despite the occasional error. In Q3(l) most answered correctly; a few omitted details.

Conclusion

All candidates made a serious attempt at this paper, and nearly all followed the storyline to the end.



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