



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Scholarship, 2005

Classical Studies 93404

National Statistics

Assessment Report

Classical Studies, Scholarship, 2005
93404

National Statistics

No. Scholarship Results	Results			
	Outstanding	Scholarship	Scholarship	
	No. Awards	% of L3 Cohort	No. Awards	% of L3 Cohort
156	17	0.3%	139	2.8%

Commentary

Successful candidates had an excellent range of accurate and relevant knowledge of the aspects of the classical world they had chosen to write about in the examination. They had a thorough grasp of topic detail and showed understanding of concepts specific to the classical world. They incorporated pertinent primary source material and made sensible and selective reference to information and ideas acquired through additional background reading. Most importantly, these candidates presented a cogently argued response in essay form. They wrote in a clear and logical manner and consistently rendered classical names and technical terms correctly.

The best performing candidates most commonly demonstrated the following skills and / or knowledge:

- maturity of thought and subtlety of understanding with regard to the implication of the question
- evidence of thoughtful reading beyond that required in the set texts. Their essays were convincingly and elegantly expressed, often including an element of personal response
- ability to focus on the broader picture. Candidates did not allow themselves to become unduly preoccupied with minor detail
- ability to examine a specific topic in its appropriate historical, artistic, literary or philosophical context
- ability to provide responses that were discerning and arguments that were supported by liberal use of apt, accurately cited references
- exceptional analytical perception. They had a sophisticated approach to synthesising evidence and flair for persuasive use of the English language
- ability to produce three essays of exemplary quality showing maturity of expression and presentation.

Other candidates commonly lacked the following skills and / or knowledge:

- ability to sustain an argument. Their essays ground to a halt either through fatigue, lack of knowledge or failure to realise the amount of detail and discussion required

- ability to read the question carefully. Some candidates did not answer some or all of what was asked. Others relied too heavily on narration and description, merely repeating a mass of general or marginally relevant information
- ability to write a well-structured essay
- ability to make reference to the passages or reproductions provided in the third question of each topic. Some candidates failed to understand that the passages or reproductions were provided as resource material for answering the question.

Success in the scholarship examination depends on candidates' having in-depth knowledge of relevant primary and secondary source material; the ability to analyse the questions with insight and rigour; and the skill to communicate their understanding with clarity and precision. The 2005 examination was challenging and required candidates to apply a critical lens to the topics they had studied. Overall, the standard was very commendable and essays of superlative quality were written for all topics, including Greek Science.