

Scholarship

2009 Assessment Report

Latin

COMMENTARY

Most candidates this year produced pleasing responses to the examination's questions, reflecting sound scholarship and thorough preparation. The top candidate wrote translations of both passages which were almost without flaw and made literary responses which contained depth of information and demonstrated a high degree of perception.

The prose passage for translation was a challenge for candidates who showed weaknesses in the application of knowledge of grammar and/or vocabulary, or a lesser amount of experience in the practice of construing original Latin. The Virgil questions can be prepared for more specifically, and this year's questions on atmosphere and characterisation allowed candidates to write fulsome literary responses.

Almost all candidates made good attempts at all questions. There were a few who forgot to use some glossary help, or who offered in brackets an alternative translation of some of the words in the passages. Candidates should be aware that only the first of alternative translations will be considered in marking.

SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- translated both unfamiliar passages into English with a high degree of accuracy, fluency and sensitivity, showing complete understanding of the content of both passages and a high awareness of the detail of language and of shades of meaning
- demonstrated an exceptional level of critical appreciation of language, style and context, writing full, clearly expressed literary responses supported by relevant Latin evidence.

SCHOLARSHIP

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship but not Scholarship with Outstanding Performance commonly:

- translated both unfamiliar passages into English with a high degree of accuracy and fluency, showing almost complete understanding of the content of both passages and awareness of the detail of language and of shades of meaning
- demonstrated a high level of critical appreciation of language, style and context, writing sound literary responses supported by relevant Latin evidence.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Candidates who were not awarded Scholarship or Scholarship with Outstanding Performance commonly:

- gave some very good answers but did not sustain a strong response across all questions
- selected some inappropriate meanings for words in their context
- translated an unseen passage sufficiently inaccurately to make difficult the writing of a literary response demonstrating depth of understanding
- misapplied a knowledge of aspects of critical appreciation to write inappropriate literary comment.