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Introduction

OCR has produced this resource to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE (9–1) Latin specification and to bridge the gap between new specification’s release and availability of exemplar candidate work following first examination in summer 2018.

The passage is this resource has been taken from the J282/01 Language specimen paper which can be found on the OCR website. The forward slashes in the passage and answers indicates where each of the 10 sections start and end. The answers in this resource have been written by a senior assessor. They are supported by an examiner commentary.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers. Whilst a senior examiner has provided a possible level when marking these answers, in a live series the mark a response would get depends on the whole process of standardisation, which considers the big picture of the year’s scripts. Therefore the level awarded here should be considered to be only an estimation of what would be awarded. How levels and marks correspond to grade boundaries depends on the Awarding process that happens after all/most of the scripts are marked and depends on a number of factors, including candidate performance across the board. Details of this process can be found here: http://ocr.org.uk/Images/142042-marking-and-grading-assuring-ocr-s-accuracy.pdf
Question 20

Read Passage 3.

Passage 3

The Gauls make a second attempt, but the geese on the Capitol come to the rescue of the Romans.

dux Gallorum timebat ne Romani viros collem ascendentes audirent. / itaque imperavit omnibus Gallis ut in itinere tacerent. / ea nocte Galli tam tacite processerunt ut custodes Romani eos non conspicerent. /
eodem tempore tamen anseres pauci in Capitolio habitabant. / Romani anseres non consumpserant, quod sacri deae Iunoni erant. / hi anseres, Gallis visis, tantum clamorem fecerunt / ut Manlium, militem summae virtutis, excitarent. / ille, armis statim raptis, iussit ceteros Romanos Capitolium fortiter defendere. / mox multi Galli de summo colle a Romanis deiecti sunt et mortem crudelem passi sunt. / hoc modo igitur urbs Roma non virtute militum sed clamore anserum servata est. /

Names

Galli, Gallorum (m pl) the Gauls (a Celtic people from Gaul)
Capitolium, Capitolii (n) the Capitol (a hill in Rome)
Iuno, Iunonis (f) Juno (queen of the gods)
Manlius, Manlii (m) Manlius (a Roman)

Vocabulary

collis, collis (m) hill
tacite silently
anser, anseris (m) goose
excito, excitare, excitavi, excitatus I wake up

20 Translate Passage 3 into English. [50]
Candidate A

The leader of the Gauls was afraid that the Romans might hear the man climbing the hill. / She ordered all the Gauls to say nothing on the journey. / That same night the Gauls advanced so silently that the Roman guards did not notice them. / At the same time, however, a few geese were living on the Capitolio. / The Romans did not eat the geese, because they were sacred to the goddess Juno. / These geese, having seen the Gauls, will make such a great noise / that they woke up Manlius, a courageous soldier. / He, having seized his weapons while standing up, ordered the rest of the Romans to defend the Capitol very bravely. / Many Gauls had been thrown down from the top of the hill by the Romans and suffered a cruel death. / In this way, therefore, the city of Rome was saved not by the courage of a soldier but by the noise of a goose. /

Candidate B

The leader of the Gauls was afraid that the Roman men might dare to climb the hill. / And so everyone ordered the Gauls to be silent on the journey. / That night the Gauls advanced silently so that the Roman guards would not notice them. / At the same time, however, some geese were living on the Capitol. / The Romans were not eating the geese, because they were sacred to Juno. / And they woke up Manlius, a soldier of the greatest courage. / That man, with his weapons having been snatched at once, persuaded the rest of the Romans to defend the Capitol bravely. / Soon many Gauls pushed the Romans down from the top of the hill and they suffered a cruel death. / In this way therefore Rome was served not by the courage of the soldiers but by the noise of the geese. /

Candidate C

The leader of the Gauls was afraid that the Roman men might not hear them climbing the hill. / And so everyone ordered the Gauls to be silent again. / That night the Gauls went into a procession and the Romans did not see their guards. / At the same temple, however, some small geese were living on the Capitol. / One goose, which the goddess Juno was sacrificing, was not to be consumed by the Romans. / His geese, when the Gauls had seen them, made such a great noise / that Manlius woke up a soldier of some courage. / He ordered the other Romans to defend the Capitol. / Soon many Gauls are delighted to see the Romans on some hill and a cruel death passed them by. / At Rome……the geese were serving……/
Candidate Style Answers

Marks and commentaries

Candidate A

This translation has been produced by a strong candidate, who has scored 4 or 5 marks in every section. No section is perfectly accurate, but full marks can be awarded when one inconsequential error has been made (i, iii, iv, v). In the remaining sections the candidate has made either two inconsequential errors or one more serious error, and has therefore been awarded 4 marks.

(i) ‘The leader of the Gauls was afraid that the Romans might hear the man climbing the hill.’

Number errors are considered inconsequential, so 5 marks can be awarded.

(ii) ‘She ordered all the Gauls to say nothing on the journey.’

There are two inconsequential errors: the omission of itaque (minor conjunctions/adverbs incorrectly translated or omitted are considered inconsequential) and the wrong subject pronoun. Award 4 marks.

(iii) ‘That same night the Gauls advanced so silently that the Roman guards did not notice them.’

Translating ea as eadem does not compromise the sense and is therefore an inconsequential error. Award 5 marks.

(iv) ‘At the same time, however, a few geese were living on the Capitolio.’

Failure to reproduce proper nouns in the nominative case is regarded as an inconsequential error. Award 5 marks.

(v) ‘The Romans did not eat the geese, because they were sacred to the goddess Juno.’

A minor tense error (e.g. one past tense taken as another) is inconsequential, so 5 marks can be awarded.

(vi) ‘These geese, having seen the Gauls, will make such a great noise’

This is a more serious error (a past tense translated as a future tense), so award 4 marks.

(vii) ‘that they woke up Manlius, a courageous soldier.’

The omission of summæ is a more serious error, as it does affect the meaning of the section, so award 4 marks.

(viii) ‘He, having seized his weapons while standing up, ordered the rest of the Romans to defend the Capitol very bravely.’

The incorrect superlative adverb is an inconsequential error. ‘while standing up’ may seem to be a more serious error, but, in a passage of this length and complexity, the omission or (in this case) mistranslation of the adverb statim may well be considered an inconsequential error. Remember also that the mark scheme awards marks for the proportion of sense communicated, and this candidate has demonstrated a good understanding of the overall meaning of the sentence, coping well with the ablative absolute and the indirect command. Award 4 marks.

(ix) ‘Many Gauls had been thrown down from the top of the hill by the Romans and suffered a cruel death.’

There are two inconsequential errors: the omission of max (see mark scheme guidance regarding the length of this passage) and the tense error (pluperfect instead of perfect). Award 4 marks.

(x) ‘In this way, therefore, the city of Rome was saved not by the courage of a soldier but by the noise of a goose.’

There are two inconsequential errors: the number of militum and the number of anserum (which cannot be considered as a repeated or consequent error). Award 4 marks.

TOTAL: 44/50
Candidate B

This candidate has a sound overall understanding of the sense, and is usually able to communicate the ‘gist’ of the sentence. However, no section can be awarded 5 marks, as there is always at least one more serious error or two inconsequential errors. As a result, most sections score 3 or 4 marks, with the exception of (i) and (vi).

(i) ‘The leader of the Gauls was afraid that the Roman men might dare to climb the hill.’

The first half of this sentence is completely accurate, but the candidate then makes several more serious errors: the case of viros, the meaning of audirent and not recognising the present participle ascendentes. Although the overall meaning is therefore not clear, part of the sentence is correct, so 2 marks can be awarded.

(ii) ‘And so everyone ordered the Gauls to be silent on the journey.’

The case of omnibus is incorrect, which is regarded as a more serious error. Award 4 marks.

(iii) ‘That night the Gauls advanced silently so that the Roman guards would not notice them.’

tam has been omitted, and, as a result, the candidate has not recognised the result clause and translated it instead as a purpose clause. The omission should be treated as a more serious error, but the translation of ut as ‘so that’ can be regarded as a consequential error, which should not be penalised. Award 4 marks.

(iv) ‘At the same time, however, some geese were living on the Capitol.’

The only mistake here is the translation of pauci as ‘some’. In a longer and more complex section, such an error might be judged to be inconsequential, since it does not give the wrong sense entirely, as ‘many’, for example, might. This sentence, however, consists of eight words (two of which are glossed), and there is only one main clause (i.e. no subordination). pauci is therefore regarded as a more serious error. Award 4 marks.

(v) ‘The Romans were not eating the geese, because they were sacred to Juno.’

Most of the sense has been communicated here, but there is one more serious error (the omission of deae) and one inconsequential error (translating the pluperfect consumpserant as imperfect). 3 marks should therefore be awarded, though note that, in a longer and more complex sentence, the omission of deae might be regarded as inconsequential, in which case 4 marks would be awarded.

(vi) This (otherwise mostly good) candidate has made no effort to translate section (vi), perhaps as a result of confusing this section with the previous one, which also has anseres as the second word. As no response has been made, award 0.

(vii) ‘And they woke up Manlius, a soldier of the greatest courage.’

It is not surprising that the result clause has not been recognised, since the ‘trigger’ word tantum in (vi) was not attempted. Nevertheless, apart from the mistranslation of ut (a more serious error), the rest of this section is correct. Award 4 marks.

(viii) ‘That man, with his weapons having been snatched at once, persuaded the rest of the Romans to defend the Capitol bravely.’

The literal translation of the ablative absolute is perfectly acceptable. However, the meaning of iussit is incorrect and regarded as a more serious error, since it gives the wrong sense. Award 4 marks.

(ix) ‘Soon many Gauls pushed the Romans down from the top of the hill and they suffered a cruel death.’

The first half of this sentence contains two more serious errors: the meaning and voice of deiecti sunt (note that a word containing more than one error should be treated as a maximum of one more serious error) and the handling of a Romanis. However, ‘many Gauls’ are correctly recognised as the subject of the sentence and ‘from the top of the hill’ is also correct. In addition, the second half of the sentence is perfectly accurate, so 3 marks can be awarded.

(x) ‘In this way therefore Rome was not served not by the courage of the soldiers but by the noise of the geese.’

Although this response seems to be essentially correct, there are in fact two errors: urbs has been omitted and the meaning of servata est is incorrect. Both these errors are regarded as more serious, so 3 marks should be awarded.

**TOTAL: 31/50**
Candidate C

This candidate begins quite well, and achieves 3 marks in six of the first eight sections. However, general understanding of the passage starts to deteriorate towards the end, to such an extent that the response to the final section is very sparse indeed. Note that, in a translation of this standard, counting the number of errors is not an appropriate approach. Examiners will be looking at a candidate's understanding of the overall meaning of a section. If the 'gist' of a section has been communicated, it is likely that 3 marks will be awarded (despite a number of errors or omissions). If the basic sense of a section has not been understand, 2 marks can still be awarded, provided that part of the section is correct. If there is no continuous sense, but there is evidence of some knowledge of vocabulary, 1 mark will be awarded.

(i) ‘The leader of the Gauls was afraid that the Roman men might not hear them climbing the hill.’

There are two more serious errors here: viros is in the wrong case and ne has been translated as ‘that…not’. ‘them’ can be regarded as a consequential error. The overall structure is more or less intact, however, so a mark of 3 can be awarded.

(ii) ‘And so the Gauls were ordered to be silent again.’

Omission of ‘by him’ (a pronoun agent) is regarded as an inconsequential error in cases of active to passive transposition. However, there are also two more serious errors here: the omission of omnibus and the mistranslation of in itinere as ‘again’. 3 marks should therefore be awarded, as the overall meaning is clear despite these errors.

(iii) ‘That night the Gauls went into a procession and the Romans did not see their guards.’

There are several errors here (wrong meaning of processerunt, omission of tam tacite, ut translated as ‘and’, and custodes has been translated as the object with the result that eos has been omitted or translated as ‘their’), all of which are considered to be more serious errors. As the general meaning has not been communicated, no more than 1 or 2 marks can be awarded. There is enough correct sense here (ablative of time, Gauls as the subject of a verb of movement in the perfect tense, and a reference to the Romans not seeing something) to award 2 marks.

(iv) ‘At the same temple, however, some small geese were living on the Capitol.’

Despite the confusion between tempore and templo, and the mistranslation of pauci, (both of which are more serious errors) the candidate has got the point that there were geese living on the Capitol. 3 marks can therefore be awarded.

(v) ‘One goose, which the goddess Juno was sacrificing, was not to be consumed by the Romans.’

There is very little correct sense here: the case of Romani is incorrect; the case and number of anseres is wrong; consumpserant has been handled incorrectly; quod is translated as a relative pronoun; sacri + erant is wrongly translated as ‘was sacrificing’; and deae Iunoni is in the wrong case. As there is no continuous sense, only 1 mark can be awarded for isolated knowledge of vocabulary.

(vi) ‘His geese, when the Gauls had seen them, made such a great noise’

This candidate fails to handle the ablative absolute correctly, which is a more serious error. hi translated as ‘his’ is a second more serious error, so 3 marks should be awarded, as the overall meaning is clear despite the two more serious errors.

(vii) ‘that Manilius woke up a soldier of some courage.’

There are two more serious errors here: Manilius is in the wrong case and summae has been mistranslated as ‘some’. Note that a word containing more than one error (failure to reproduce the proper noun Manilius as Manlius would normally be an inconsequential error) should be treated as a maximum of one more serious error. 3 marks should therefore be awarded.

(viii) ‘He ordered the other Romans to defend the Capitol.’

This is an accurate translation of part of the section, but there are several omissions: the ablative absolute armis raptis and the adverbs statim and fortiter. As the overall meaning is clear, 3 marks can be awarded.

(ix) ‘Soon many Gauls are delighted to see the Romans on some hill and a cruel death passed them by.’

There is very little worthy of credit here: ‘many Gauls’ are recognised as the subject of the first verb, which is translated as passive, though in the wrong tense; several items of vocabulary are translated correctly (note that the translation of summa as ‘some’ is a repeated error). However, there is no continuous sense, and so only 1 mark can be awarded for isolated knowledge of vocabulary.

(x) ‘At Rome…….the geese were serving…….’

Although the candidate has made an attempt to translate one or two words, there is no continuous sense, and only the meaning of Romae can be given any credit (anserum is glossed). There is therefore insufficient correct vocabulary to award 1 mark. Award 0.

TOTAL: 22/50
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