

A LEVEL

Candidate Style Answers

LATIN

H443

For first teaching in 2016

H443/01 Unseen Translation

Version 1

Contents

Introduction	3
Question 1	4
Exemplar response 1	5
Exemplar response 2	5
Exemplar response 3	6
Guidance on applying the mark schemes	7
Marks and commentary for exemplar response 1	8
Marks and commentary for exemplar response 2	9
Marks and commentary for exemplar response 3	10

Introduction

OCR has produced this resource to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new A Level Latin specification and to bridge the gap between new specification release for first teaching from September 2016 and availability of exemplar candidate work following first examination in summer 2018.

This content has been produced by OCR examiners to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and to provide some commentary on how to apply the new marking grid for translation.

As these responses do not replicate student work and have not been through full standardisation ahead of formal grade setting for the new specification, they have not been graded. There are instead, indications of what a high level response might include, in accordance with the mark scheme.

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.

Question 1

King Philippus attacks the town of Abydos; when the townsfolk face defeat, they decide that death is preferable to surrender.

At first the citizens of Abydos, placing artillery along the walls, prevented the attackers from approaching. Then part of the wall was breached and tunnels were driven as far as the inner defences.

Abydeni legatos ad regem de condicionibus tradendae urbis miserunt. /
 poscebant ut sibi liceret urbe excedere cum singulis vestimentis. / quibus cum
 Philippus nullam pacem fore nisi omnia permittentibus respondisset, hoc
 responsum iram adeo accendit / ut matronas omnes in templo Dianae, pueros
 virginesque, infantes etiam cum suis nutricibus in gymnasio includi iuberent. / ibi 5
 viri delecti sunt qui, ubi caesam aciem suorum pro diruto muro pugnantes
 vidissent, extemplo coniuges liberosque interficerent. / tum milites adeo
 pertinaciter pugnaverunt ut, cum proelium nox diremptura esset, Philippus
 prior, territus rabie eorum, pugna abstinerit. / principes, quibus atrocior pars
 facinoris delegata erat, cum paucos confectos vulneribus superesse proelio 10
 viderent, luce prima sacerdotes ad urbem dedendam Philippo mittunt. / qui, auro
 argentoque accepto, hominum praedam omnem amisit. / tanta enim rabies
 multitudinem invasit ut repente omnes ad caedem coniugum liberorumque
 discurrerent seque ipsi interficerent. / obtupefactus eo furore rex triduum se ad
 moriendum Abydenis dare dixit; nec quisquam vivus in potestatem regis venit. 15

Livy XXXI.17–18 (adapted)

Names

<i>Abydeni, -orum</i> (m pl)	the citizens of Abydos
<i>Philippus, -i</i> (m pl)	Philippus

Words

<i>diruo, -ere, -rui, -rurus</i>	I ruin
<i>dirimo, -ere, -remi, -remptus</i>	I interrupt
<i>rabies, -ei</i> (f)	madness
<i>triduum, -i</i> (n)	three days

Translate Passage 1 into English.

[50]

Exemplar response 1

The citizens of Abydos sent legates to the king about the conditions of the city they had handed over. / They were demanding that they should allow them to depart from the city with single garments. / To whom when Philip had replied that there was no peace unless all was permitted, this answer inflamed so much anger / that they ordered all the women in the temple of Diana to be locked in, and the infants even with their nurses who were in the gymnasium. / There men were chosen who, when they had seen their battle line fighting in front of the ruined wall conquered, they should quickly kill their wives and children. / The the soldiers fought so pertinaciously that, when the battle was about to be interrupted by night, Philip was the first, terrified by their madness, to leave the fight. / The princes, to whom the worst part of the battle had been delegated, since he saw a few men worn out by wounds were victorious in the battle, at dawn sent priests to the city to defend it from Philip. / Who, with gold and silver accepted, lost all the prize of the men. / For such a great madness invaded the multitude that suddenly all ran to the murder of wives and children and they killed themselves. / Stupefied by their fury the king said he himself would give the citizens of Abydos three days to die; nor anyone alive came into the power of the king. /

Exemplar response 2

The citizens of Abydos sent ambassadors to the king about conditions of trade in the city. / They were demanding permission to leave the city with only the clothes they wore. / With these Philip replied that there was no peace in the forum since everything was permitted, he replied to this with such violent anger / that all the married women were shut in the temple of Diana, and the boys and girls and even the babies with their nurses were ordered to stay in the gymnasium. / Then the men were downcast because, when they saw their broken army fighting in front of the ruined wall, they killed their wives and children as an example. / Then I approached the soldiers who were fighting stubbornly and, when the battle was interrupted by night, the prince Philip was terrified by their madness and the fight stopped. / The chieftains, for whom an atrocious part of the deed was chosen, when they saw a few men with bad wounds above them in the battle, at first light priests were sent to the city to hand Philip over. / Who, having accepted gold and silver, sent all the men away with pride. / For a great madness seized the crowd, so that all repented of the slaughter of the wives and children and ran away to kill themselves. / Astonished by their madness the king himself for three days said to the citizens of Abydos that they should give up their dead; nor did any living creature come to the powerful king. /

Exemplar response 3

The citizens of Abydos sent ambassadors to the king to discuss terms for giving up the city. / They demanded that he should allow them to leave the city with singular clothes. / When Philip had replied to these that he would allow no peace to anyone except in the forum, his reply set them on fire with so much anger / that the married women, who were all in the temple of Diana, should be locked in with the boys and virgins and also the infants with their nurses in the gymnasium. / Their men were chosen who, when they had seen their battle line killed while fighting before the ruined wall, killed their wives and freedmen quickly. / Then soldiers attacked so obstinately that, when night had interrupted the war, Philip first abandoned the battle, frightened by their madness. / The princes, to whom the more atrocious part of the battle had been given, saw few men still standing in the battle with severe wounds, at first light the priests were sent to Philip in the city to hand it over. / He, after he received some gold and silver, lost all the proud men. / For such a great madness took over the crowd that suddenly all killed their wives and their children ran off and killed themselves. / The king, astonished by this madness, said himself to give the citizens of Abydos three days to die; neither of them came alive into the power of the king. /

Guidance on applying the marking grids

The general principle in assessing each section should be the **proportion** (out of 5) of sense achieved.

One approach for each section is given in the mark scheme. Acceptable alternatives will be illustrated during Standardisation, but examiners should assess on its own merits any approach that satisfactorily conveys the meaning of the Latin – the crucial consideration being the extent to which every Latin word is satisfactorily rendered in some way in the English.

The determination of what a “slight” error is only necessary when it is the only error in a translation; this distinction will then determine whether a mark of 5 or 4 is appropriate. Where marks of 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 are applicable, the overall proportion of meaning conveyed in the section is the only consideration. The term “major” error has been used here to determine an error which is more serious than a “slight” error.

The classification below should be seen only as a general guide, the intention of which is to maintain standards year-on-year. Lead markers should consider each instance on its own merits in the context of the passage and the section.

- Wrong past tenses are generally considered a “slight” error, but other tense errors are “major”. Note, however, that perfect participles can often be correctly translated as present. Note also that allowance must be made for differences of idiom (e.g. *ubi venerunt*: ‘when they had come’ would be correct; similarly ‘when they came’ for *cum venissent*). Where there are historic presents, the candidate should consistently use the past or present; if the candidate is inconsistent, the error should be counted once only, as a “slight” error. If a candidate repeatedly makes the same error of tense, the error should be counted once only.
- Vocabulary errors that are close to the right meaning are “slight” errors; any wrong meaning that alters the sense is “major”. (e.g. *amicis suasit*: ‘he persuaded his friends’ would be a “slight” error; ‘he spoke to his friends’ would be “major”).
- Omission of particles (e.g. conjunctions) that add nothing to the sense (e.g. *autem*) may be ignored; those that add little to the sense (e.g. *sed, tamen, igitur*) are “slight” errors; omission of other words is generally a “major” error. All likely omissions should be categorised at Standardisation.
- Errors of number are usually “major”, but where the difference is minimal, they are “slight” (e.g. *vinis consumptis*: ‘the wine having been consumed’); sometimes they can be ignored altogether (e.g. *haec dixit* ‘he said this’; *maximi labores* ‘very great work’; *curae iraeque* ‘anxiety and anger’). Each instance should be categorised at Standardisation.
- Errors of construction are always “major”, unless a construction has been successfully paraphrased (e.g. *promisit se celeriter adventurum esse*: ‘he promised a swift arrival’).
- Errors of case are always “major”, unless the containing clause has been successfully paraphrased. (e.g. *tribus cum legionibus venit*: ‘he brought three legions with him’).
- Change from active to passive is allowable if the agent is expressed or if the agent is omitted and the sense is not compromised. If the agent is omitted and the sense is compromised, it is a “slight” error (e.g. *regem interfecerunt*: ‘the king was killed’ would be allowable if it were obvious from the preceding sentence who killed the king; if it were not clear who killed him, a “slight” error should be indicated).

The final decisions on what constitutes a “slight” and “major” error will be made and communicated to assessors via the standardisation process (after full consideration of candidates’ responses) and these decisions will be captured in the final mark scheme for examiners and centres.

Marking grid for translation into English

Marks	Description
5	Accurate translation with one slight error allowed.
4	Mostly correct.
3	More than half right.
2	Less than half right.
1	Little recognisable relation or meaning to the Latin.
0	No response or no response worthy of credit.

Marks and commentary for exemplar response 1

Section / Chunk	Translation	Marks and Commentary
1	The citizens of Abydos sent legates to the king about the conditions of the city <u>they had handed over</u> .	4 (one major error; wrong sense of 'conditions' ignored)
2	They were demanding that <u>they</u> should allow them to depart from the city with single garments.	5 (the sense is hardly affected by the plural)
3	To <u>whom</u> when Philip had replied that there <u>was</u> no peace unless all <u>was permitted</u> , this answer inflamed so much anger	4 (the errors do not compromise the sense)
4	That they ordered all the <u>women</u> in the temple of Diana to be locked in, and <u>^</u> the infants even with their nurses (<u>who were</u>) in the gymnasium.	3 (the omission of two words brings the mark down from 4)
5	There men were chosen who, when they had seen <u>their</u> battle line fighting in front of the ruined wall conquered, (<u>they</u>) should <u>quickly</u> kill their wives and children.	4 (two slight errors)
6	The soldiers fought so (pertinaciously) that, when the battle was about to be interrupted by night, Philip was the first, terrified by their madness, to leave the fight.	5 (some oddities, but nothing actually wrong; consider the level of meaning conveyed)
7	The <u>princes</u> , to whom the <u>worst</u> part of the battle had been delegated, (since) he saw a few men worn out by wounds <u>were victorious</u> (in) the battle, at dawn sent priests <u>to the</u> city to <u>defend it from Philip</u> .	3 (many errors of varied types, but most of the underlying sense is present)
8	<u>Who</u> , with gold and silver accepted, lost all the <u>prize</u> of the men.	4 (two errors making little difference to the sense)
9	For such a great madness invaded the multitude that suddenly all <u>ran</u> to the murder of wives and children and they killed themselves.	5 (rather literal and stilted, but correct)
10	Stupefied by <u>their</u> fury the king said he <u>himself would</u> give the citizens of Abydos three days to die; nor anyone alive came into the power of the king.	4 (none of the errors affects the overall sense or structure)
Total = 41/50 This should be seen as a good response, competent throughout and never losing the sense.		

Marks and commentary for exemplar response 2

Section / Chunk	Translation	Marks and Commentary
1	The citizens of Abydos sent ambassadors to the king about conditions <u>of trade in the city</u> .	4 (two errors; wrong sense of 'conditions' ignored; most sense is present)
2	They were demanding permission to leave the city with only the clothes they wore.	5 (good improvement on the literal)
3	<u>With these</u> Philip replied that there <u>was</u> no peace in the <u>forum since</u> everything <u>was permitted</u> , he replied to this with such violent anger.	2 (the errors severely compromise the sense)
4	That all the married women <u>were shut</u> in the temple of Diana, and the boys and girls and even the babies with their nurses <u>were ordered to stay</u> in the gymnasium.	4 (nearly all the sense is present in a long section)
5	Then the men were <u>downcast because</u> , when they saw <u>their broken</u> army fighting in front of the ruined wall, they <u>killed</u> their wives and children <u>as an example</u> .	2 (this is borderline 2/3; most individual words are correct, but the structure is seriously flawed)
6	Then I <u>approached the soldiers</u> who <u>were fighting</u> stubbornly <u>and</u> , when the battle <u>was interrupted</u> by night, the <u>prince</u> Philip was terrified by their madness and the <u>fight stopped</u> .	3 (again this is borderline 2/3 as above; so 3 this time as 2 last time)
7	The chieftains, <u>for</u> whom an <u>atrocious</u> part of the <u>deed was chosen</u> , when they saw a few men with <u>bad</u> wounds <u>above them</u> (in) the battle, at first light priests <u>were sent to the city</u> to hand <u>Philip</u> over.	2 (too many errors for 3; minority of sense)
8	<u>Who</u> , having accepted gold and silver, <u>sent all</u> the <u>men</u> away <u>with pride</u> .	2 (the main clause is completely wrong)
9	For a <u>great</u> madness seized the crowd, so that all <u>repented of the slaughter</u> of the wives and children and ran away <u>to kill themselves</u> .	3 (despite the serious errors there is a majority of sense rendered)
10	Astonished by <u>their</u> madness the king <u>himself</u> for three days <u>said to the citizens</u> of Abydos that <u>they should give up their dead</u> ; nor did any living <u>creature</u> come <u>to the powerful</u> king.	2 (only isolated pockets of sense)
<p>Total = 29/50 This is a script of mixed quality, with flashes of brilliance but marred by inattention to syntax. The main weakness is complete lack of attention to the developing sense of the storyline.</p>		

Marks and commentary for exemplar response 3

Section / Chunk	Translation	Marks and Commentary
1	The citizens of Abydos sent ambassadors to the king to discuss terms for giving up the city.	5 (all correct)
2	They demanded that he should allow them to leave the city with <u>singular</u> clothes.	5 (close enough to be discounted)
3	When Philip had replied to these that he would <u>allow</u> no peace <u>to anyone</u> <u>except in the forum</u> , <u>his</u> reply set them on <u>fire with</u> so much anger	2 (the errors severely compromise the sense)
4	That the married women, <u>who were</u> all in the temple of Diana, should be locked in with the boys and virgins and also the infants with their nurses in the gymnasium.	4 (some distortion of phrasing and meaning, but not implausible)
5	<u>Their</u> men were chosen who, when they had seen their battle line <u>killed</u> while fighting before the ruined wall, <u>killed</u> their wives and <u>freedmen</u> <u>quickly</u> .	4 ('their' is probably a spelling mistake, but as it stands it is wrong; structurally very good; mainly vocab errors)
6	Then soldiers <u>attacked</u> so obstinately that, when night <u>had</u> interrupted the <u>war</u> , Philip first abandoned the battle, frightened by their madness.	4 (two vocab near misses and one wrong tense)
7	The <u>princes</u> , to whom the more atrocious part of the battle had been <u>given</u> , saw few men still standing in the battle <u>with</u> <u>severe</u> wounds, at first light the priests <u>were sent to</u> Philip <u>in the city</u> to hand it over.	3 (many errors, but most sense survives in this long section)
8	He, <u>after</u> he received some gold and silver, lost <u>all</u> the <u>proud</u> <u>men</u> .	2 (a short section, half wrong, with errors in both halves)
9	For such a great madness took over the crowd that suddenly all <u>killed</u> their wives and <u>their</u> <u>children</u> ran off and killed themselves.	3 (despite the serious errors there is a majority of sense rendered)
10	The king, astonished by this madness, said <u>himself</u> to give the citizens of Abydos three days to die; <u>neither</u> <u>of them</u> came alive into the power of the king.	3 (almost a 4)
Total = 35/50 The main weakness here is vocabulary.		



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