

A LEVEL

Candidate Style Answers

LATIN

H443

For first teaching in 2016

H443/02 Prose Composition

Version 1

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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 11

Translate this passage into Latin prose.

[50]

You are reminded that marks will be awarded for the style of your translation.

For many years the Spartans had tried to defeat the Messenians. They went to Delphi to consult the oracle, / and learned that only an Athenian could teach them how they could win. / So they immediately sent ambassadors to Athens to ask for an adviser. /

The Athenians were afraid that the Spartans would very easily capture the richest part of Greece, / but they had to obey the god. Therefore they decided to send the Spartans a lame poet called Tyrtaeus: / they thought that a man like that, who had never been in a battle, would give the Spartans very bad advice. /

When he arrived there, by reciting warlike poems Tyrtaeus restored the soldiers' courage. / With his help, the Spartans fought so much better / that they at last brought the Messenians under their control. /

Names

Spartans	<i>Lacedaemonii, -orum</i> (m pl)
Messenians	<i>Messenenses, -ium</i> (m pl)
Delphi	<i>Delphi, -orum</i> (m pl)
Athenian	<i>Atheniensis, -is</i> (m)
Athens	<i>Athenae, -arum</i> (f pl)
Tyrtaeus	<i>Tyrtaeus, -i</i> (m)

Words

oracle	<i>oraculum, -i</i> (n)
adviser	<i>consultor, -oris</i> (m)
lame	<i>claudus, -a, -um</i>
warlike	<i>bellicosus, -a, -um</i>

Exemplar response 1

Lacedaemonii multos annos Messenenses vincere conati sunt. Delphos adiverunt ad oraculum consulendum / et discivit Atheniensem solum se docere posse quomodo victoriam efficere possent. / itaque statim Athenas legatos miserunt ut consultorem quaerent. / Athenienses timebant ne Lacedaemonii facilissime divitissimam partem Graeci, / sed deum parendum curaverunt. itaque mittere poetam claudum quendam nomine Tyrtaeus constituerunt: / putabant talem virum, qui nihil in proelio pugnavisset, Lacedaemonios consilium male daturum esse. / Tyrtaeus, in quo loco advenit, poetas bellicosissimas loquendo militum fidem reficerunt. / Lacedaemonii eius auxilio meliore tantus pugnaverunt / ut tandem Messenenses sub iussum ferrent. /

Exemplar response 2

multos dies Lacedaemonii Messenses vincere conati erant. Delphos adventi ut oraculum auxilio peterent, / cognoscevarunt solum Atheniensem quare vincere possent se docere posse. / igitur statim Athenas legatos misunt ut consultatorem peterent. / Athenienses timebant ne Lacedaemonii dives partem Graecae facinus caperent, / autem deum parendi sunt. itaque Lacedaemonios claudum epistulam nomine Tyrtaeus misere delegunt: / pensabant virum sic illum, qui numquam bellum pugnavit, Lacedaemonios malissimum auxilium dabit. / cum ille inveneret, a dictus bellicosas epistulas, Tyrtaeus fortis militum redidit. / cum auxilio, Lacedaemonii tam melius pugnaverunt / ut tandem sub regnum Messenenses tuliverunt. /

Guidance on applying the marking grids

The passage has been divided into 9 sections each worth 5 marks. Award up to 5 marks per translated section according to the 5-mark marking grid listed below. The general principle in assessing each section should be the **proportion** (out of 5) of sense achieved.

There are many acceptable ways of turning a piece of English into correct Latin. One approach for each sentence 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 English.

The determination of what a 'slight' error is only necessary when it is the only error in a section; 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.

It is likely that some of the errors below may be regarded as "major" if they appear in a relatively short and straightforward section, whereas in longer or more complex sections they are more likely to be a "slight" error.

- Errors of construction are always "major".
- Insignificant variation in past tenses (e.g. imperfect for perfect) is generally considered a "slight" error, but other tense errors are "major".
- Abstruse vocabulary or paraphrasing that conveys the required sense are "slight" errors; any wording that distorts the sense is a "major" error. Any wording which is especially apt for the context should qualify for an additional 'style' mark.
- Omission of words is generally a "major" error, unless the word has been effectively taken care of by an idiomatic Latin rephrasing.
- Errors in number are usually "major", but where the difference is minimal, they are "slight"; sometimes they can be ignored altogether. Debatable instances will be categorised at Standardisation.
- Errors of case are always "major", unless the containing clause has been successfully paraphrased.
- 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

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 Latin

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 English
0	No response or no response worthy of credit.

Additional marks for style

Additional marks (to a maximum of 5) should be awarded for individual instances of stylish Latin writing. Some examples are given (+) in the mark scheme, but these are by no means the only permissible points. Other attempts at connection and subordination, good choice of words and Latinate word order should also be rewarded. Each word or phrase credited with an additional mark should be indicated with +.

In general, each *type* of improvement (e.g. promotion of Subject to first word; *igitur* as 2nd word) should be rewarded once only. Exceptions to this rule include *different* methods of subordination to link clauses together, and the insertion of *different* words (*enim*, *itaque*, etc.) to aid continuity.

The following code applies to examples listed in the mark-scheme:

- ✓ = acceptable alternative / slight error
- ✗ = major error → max.4 for that section.
- + = specific 'improvement' credited with a 'style mark' (see above)

Marks and commentary for exemplar response 1

	Answer	Mark	Commentary
(i)	Lacedaemonii multos annos Messenenses vincere conati sunt. Delphos adiverunt ad oraculum consulendum	4 + <i>Lacedaemonii</i> + <i>ad..</i> <i>consulendum</i>	" <i>conati sunt</i> " is a specified error
(ii)	et discivit Atheniensem solum se docere posse quomodo victoriam efficere possent.	4 + <i>victoriam</i> <i>efficere</i>	" <i>disciverunt</i> " would be permitted but there are two separate errors in a main verb here!
(iii)	itaque statim Athenas legatos miserunt ut consultorem quaerent.	5	
(iv)	Athenienses timebant ne Lacedaemonii facilissime divitissimam partem Graeci,	4	" <i>facilissime</i> " and " <i>Graeci</i> " alone would be allowable for 5 if all else was correct
(v)	sed deum parendum curaverunt. itaque mittere poetam claudum quendam nomine Tyrtaeus constituerunt:	5 + <i>parendum</i> <i>curaverunt</i> + <i>quendam</i>	
(vi)	putabant talem virum, qui nihil in proelio pugnavisset, Lacedaemonios consilium male daturum esse.	4 + <i>pugnavisset</i>	Sense of "never" not rendered; "male" adverb inappropriate
(vii)	Tyrtaeus, in quo loco advenit, poetas bellicosissimas loquendo militum fidem refecerunt.	2	Key construction and main verb both incorrect
(viii)	Lacedaemonii eius auxilio meliore tantus pugnaverunt	3	Difficult to credit " <i>tantus</i> " with " <i>meliore</i> " and incorrect case. A short section so marked less generously.
(ix)	ut tandem Messenenses sub iussum ferrent.	5	
Translation = 36/45			
Style marks 5/5			

Marks and commentary for exemplar response 2

	Answer	Mark	Commentary
(i)	multos dies Lacedaemonii Messenses vincere conati erant. Delphos adventi ut oraculum auxilio peterent,	4	A longer section so even with the smaller errors this is better than "more than half right", although close to the borderline
(ii)	cognoscevarunt solum Atheniensem quare vincere possent se docere posse.	3	Conversely, a shorter section and "quare" is a key word, alongside the minor error in the main verb.
(iii)	igitur statim Athenas legatos misunt ut consultatorem peterent.	4	Again, a shorter section
(iv)	Athenienses timebant ne Lacedaemonii dives partem Graecae facinus caperent,	3	Various errors in the fear clause, but with the construction correct this is more than half right.
(v)	autem deum parendi sunt. itaque Lacedaemonios claudum epistulam nomine Tyrtaeus misere delegunt:	2	Less successful, by comparison. the idiomatic addition of <i>nomine</i> deserves credit for a style mark.
(vi)	pensabant virum sic illum, qui numquam bellum pugnabat, Lacedaemonios malissimum auxilium dabit.	2	Main construction completely wrong so unlikely to reach above 2. NB " <i>penseo</i> " is only cited with a substantive object
(vii)	cum ille inveneret, a dictus bellicosas epistulas, Tyrtaeus fortis militum redidit.	1	Borderline 1/2
(viii)	cum auxilio, Lacedaemonii tam melius pugnaverunt	3	
(ix)	ut tandem sub regnum Messenenses tuliverunt.	2	

Translation = 24/45

Style marks 1/5



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