OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

GCSE (9-1)

Examiners' report

CLASSICAL GREEK

J292

For first teaching in 2016

J292/03 Summer 2022 series

Contents

Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers are also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

Advance Information for Summer 2022 assessments

To support student revision, advance information was published about the focus of exams for Summer 2022 assessments. Advance information was available for most GCSE, AS and A Level subjects, Core Maths, FSMQ, and Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies. You can find more information on our website.

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Paper 3 series overview

The Lucian set text was offered by just a few Centres, but the overall performance of this small sample was impressive – stronger, perhaps, than that of the larger number of candidates who took the Herodotus paper. Students and their teachers had clearly enjoyed studying the humorous and fantastical work of a later Greek author. The disruption to the past two examination series, and the consequent extension of the 2020/21 prescription to 2022, had required the production of a third paper from this prescription. Centres evidently made effective use of the 2020 and 2021 papers, alongside the Advance Information released in February 2022, to prepare their candidates, who have been studying Greek in far-from-ideal conditions. The great majority of candidates knew the text well and were able to communicate their appreciation of Lucian's prose, writing with intelligence and insight.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
• Showed detailed knowledge and understanding of the prescribed Greek text • Supported their answers with accurate Greek quotation and translation • Analysed literary style effectively • Used their knowledge of the whole text in their response to the final 10-mark question	• Offered imprecise translations • Did not support comments with appropriate Greek quotation • Did not analyse linguistic / literary features • Showed limited knowledge and understanding of the whole text in responding to the final 10-mark question

Length of lemmas (quoted extracts of Greek) in question stem
A maximum of six words will be quoted in any question stem. Candidates are advised to refer back to the whole passage when answering a question that draws on a section of that passage.

Legibility of Scripts
Examiners do their best to decipher hard-to-read scripts so that due marks can be given. Centres are encouraged to make appropriate access arrangements for candidates likely to be disadvantaged by illegible handwriting: type-written scripts are welcome and, indeed, often easier to mark. If the issue of Greek quotation discourages candidates from typing, there are various options to consider, listed here in order of preference: • **Ideal**: a polytonic Greek keyboard, which can be toggled on an off and allows the typing of diacritical marks (breathings, iota subscripts and accents). Candidates would need to familiarise themselves with the keyboard layout and practise using it in exam conditions. • **Simpler but acceptable**: the Symbol font in Word for typing Greek quotations without diacritical marks; some practice is advised with this too (e.g. terminal sigma ς = SHIFT + v). • **Last resort**: hand-written Greek quotations in the answer booklet, clearly linked to the question answered on a type-written response. This is a more time-consuming, fiddly format for on-screen markers to navigate but examiners will read and consider everything written on a script.

OCR support

Centres are encouraged to consult the examiners' report for J292/02 from the previous full examination series (2019), as well as the materials produced for the January 2022 CPD 'Understanding the Assessment' – GCSE Classical Greek (J292), which included exemplars for the Lucian set text (J292/03) examined in 2020-2022.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-greek-j292-from-2016/

Question 1

1   Read the passage and answer the question.

> αὐτὴ μὲν οὖν ἡ πόλις πᾶσα χρυσῆ, τὸ δὲ τεῖχος περίκειται σμαράγδινον· πύλαι
> δέ εἰσιν ἑπτά, πᾶσαι μονόξυλοι κινναμώμιναι· τὸ μέντοι ἔδαφος τῆς πόλεως
> καὶ ἡ ἐντὸς τοῦ τείχους γῆ ἐλεφαντίνη· ναοὶ δὲ πάντων θεῶν βηρύλλου λίθου
> ᾠκοδομημένοι, καὶ βωμοὶ ἐν αὐτοῖς μέγιστοι μονόλιθοι ἀμεθύστινοι, ἐφ' ὧν
> ποιοῦσι τὰς ἑκατόμβας.   5

Translation:

*The city itself is all made of gold, and the wall that lies around it is made of
emerald. There are seven gates, all made from one trunk of cinnamon. However,
the ground of the city and the land within its walls is made of ivory. There are
temples of all the gods, built of beryl, and in them very large single-stone altars of
amethyst, on which they make their sacrifices.*

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 10a.1–6

How does Lucian's language in this passage create a sense of luxury?

You should make **two** points, each supported by close reference to the Greek.

1 ....

....

....

....

2 ....

....

....

....

[4]

This question was very well answered by most. Full marks were earned by those who gave two Greek
quotations, supported by accurate translation and included at least one comment about language, as
required when the AO3 question is accompanied by an English translation. Where translations did not
exactly match the Greek quoted or a style point was missing, the maximum mark given was 3. Exemplar
1 shows a response which fell short in this way.

Exemplar 1

1 ἡ πόλις πασα χρυση – the city [itself] was all made of gold. Gold was a precious metal in the ancient world. The quantity needed to construct a city would have been unimaginably lavish.

2 μεγιστοι μονολιθα αμεθυστινοι – very large single-stone altars of amethyst. While not as precious as gold, the quantity is staggering. ~~Sculpture were~~ /c. It would have been understood that working this crystal would have been impossible.

[4]

The first point here is good. The second has two shortcomings: βωμοὶ (altars) is omitted from the Greek quotation, even though included in the translation, and there is no comment about Lucian's use of language. The candidate might have mentioned the use of the superlative μέγιστοι or the alliteration of μ in the three words quoted.

Question 2 (a)

2   Read the passage and answer the questions.

> τὰς δὲ ῥοιὰς καὶ τὰς μηλέας καὶ τὴν ἄλλην ὀπώραν ἔλεγον εἶναι
> τρισκαιδεκάφορον· ἑνὸς γὰρ μηνὸς τοῦ παρ' αὐτοῖς Μινῴου δὶς καρποφορεῖν·
> ἀντὶ δὲ πυροῦ οἱ στάχυες ἄρτον ἕτοιμον ἐπ' ἄκρων φύουσιν ὥσπερ μύκητας.
> πηγαὶ δὲ περὶ τὴν πόλιν ὕδατος μὲν πέντε καὶ ἑξήκοντα καὶ τριακόσιαι,
> μέλιτος δὲ ἄλλαι τοσαῦται, μύρου δὲ πεντακόσιαι, μικρότεραι μέντοι αὗται, καὶ   5
> ποταμοὶ γάλακτος ἑπτὰ καὶ οἴνου ὀκτώ.

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 10b.28–35

(a) τὰς δὲ ῥοιὰς … καρποφορεῖν (lines 1–2): what surprising information does Lucian mention here about the fruit trees on the island?

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

> The great majority of candidates got two marks for this question. A few thought that 'Minoan' applied to the type of trees rather than the (imaginary) 'month of Minos' in Lucian's afterlife.

Question 2 (b)

(b) ἀντὶ δὲ πυροῦ … φύουσιν (line 3): pick out and translate a **two-word Greek phrase** which shows what the ears of wheat produce.

Greek phrase:	....
English translation:	....

[2]

> The steer in the question ('two-word Greek phrase') helped many candidates to select the correct phrase ἄρτον ἕτοιμον, and translations generally matched the quotation chosen. A plural translation ('loaves') was accepted for the singular ἄρτον in this context. Those who included στάχυες, presumably because of the word 'wheat' in the question, or who quoted more than two words could earn at most one mark.

Question 2 (d)

(d) Why do you think Lucian includes so many numbers in his description? Use an example from the text to support your answer.

....

....

....

.... **[2]**

> Most candidates gave a perceptive personal response to this question, supporting their suggestion with an appropriate example of hyperbole in the text.

Question 3*

3*   Read the passage and answer the question.

> οὕτω μὲν πίνουσιν, ἀντὶ δὲ τῶν στεφάνων αἱ ἀηδόνες καὶ τὰ ἄλλα τὰ μουσικὰ
> ὄρνεα ἐκ τῶν πλησίον λειμώνων τοῖς στόμασιν ἀνθολογοῦντα κατανίφει
> αὐτοὺς μετ' ᾠδῆς ὑπερπετόμενα. καὶ μὴν καὶ μυρίζονται ὧδε. νεφέλαι πυκναὶ
> ἀνασπάσασαι μύρον ἐκ τῶν πηγῶν καὶ τοῦ ποταμοῦ καὶ ἐπιστᾶσαι ὑπὲρ τὸ
> συμπόσιον ἠρέμα τῶν ἀνέμων ὑποθλιβόντων ὕουσι λεπτὸν ὥσπερ δρόσον.   5

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 10c.46–52

How does Lucian make this scene idyllic?

In your answer you may wish to consider:

- the selection of 'traditional' elements of a dinner party
- the use of words conveying a gentle atmosphere

You must refer to the **Greek** and discuss Lucian's use of language.   **[8]**

There were some excellent responses to this question, with many candidates earning a Level 4 mark. The best responses made good use of the bullet points included as a steer in the question and extracted a range of stylistic points from the passage. There were perceptive comments made about, for example: the assonance in the phrase αἱ ἀηδόνες καὶ τὰ ἄλλα τὰ μουσικὰ ὄρνεα; the gentle effect of the verb κατανίφει; and the choice of the adjective λεπτὸν to describe the delicate dew-like precipitation which sprinkles the diners at Lucian's idyllic symposium. Others noted that the diners' usual accessories are replaced (ἀντὶ δὲ τῶν στεφάνων) by something magical and that the clouds are described in quasi-anthropomorphic terms, although the rhyming participles ἀνασπάσασαι… ἐπιστᾶσαι rarely attracted comment.

Less successful candidates neglected to translate their selected Greek quotations or offered translations which did not match the quotation exactly. In some cases, proper style points were missing, with candidates quoting the Greek but not identifying stylistic features from those quotations. Others did not give much context to their points or listed their points only briefly, without development, so that the response did not communicate an understanding of the context. See Exemplar 2 below for an illustration of this shortcoming.

Exemplar 2

Moreover, the mythical clouds 'drawing up unguent'. (ανασπασαται μυρον) brings a sense of picturesque-ness.

The scenery of the birds (ὀρνεα) and clouds (νεφελαι) and 'streams and rivers' (πηγων και τον ποταμου) all are most usually seen as beautiful and idyllic.

This candidate's comment about the actions of the clouds is supported by accurate quotation and translation ('unguent' was accepted as a translation of μύρον twice in this script), but the point is brief and under-developed. The candidate has not made it clear that the clouds are mentioned to illustrate how the diners perfume themselves: μυρίζονται might have been quoted to highlight a 'traditional' element of a dinner party. Similarly, the next point is brief and lacks contextual detail, relying mostly on isolated, one-word quotations. The word ποταμοῦ has been translated incorrectly as a plural ('rivers'). There was limited discussion of language in this response, although the candidate did achieve a Level 3 mark by later commenting on the use of the word κατανίφει.

Assessment for learning

Teachers are encouraged to emphasise what is meant by 'close reference to the Greek': candidates should not just copy out words and phrases but actually engage with the literary effect of the examples chosen. Candidates are advised to avoid listing their points without development: bullet-point style responses are liable to lack depth of analysis.

Question 4 (a)

4   Read the passage and answer the questions.

> ὁ δὲ οὐδ᾽ αὐτὸς μὲν ἀγνοεῖν ἔφασκεν ὡς οἱ μὲν Χῖον, οἱ δὲ Σμυρναῖον, πολλοὶ
> δὲ Κολοφώνιον αὐτὸν νομίζουσιν· εἶναι μέντοι γε ἔλεγεν Βαβυλώνιος, καὶ
> παρά γε τοῖς πολίταις οὐχ Ὅμηρος, ἀλλὰ Τιγράνης καλεῖσθαι· ὕστερον δὲ
> ὁμηρεύσας παρὰ τοῖς Ἕλλησιν ἀλλάξαι τὴν προσηγορίαν.

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 11a.4–9

(a) What long-disputed question has Lucian asked Homer before this passage?

.... **[1]**

Question 4 (b)

(b) ὁ δὲ οὐδ᾽αὐτὸς … Βαβυλώνιος (lines 1–2): how does Homer answer this question?

....

....

....

.... **[3]**

> Examiners allowed some leeway here, accepting a range of spellings for the various place names, so that almost all candidates achieved three marks. Question 4(a) was answered almost universally correctly.

Question 4 (c)

(c) ὕστερον … προσηγορίαν (lines 3–4): explain the word play Lucian uses here to account for Homer's change of name.

....

.... **[1]**

> Successful candidates understood the spurious etymology in this sentence, earning a mark for connecting the name Homer with the Greek word for hostage. For a significant minority the question proved challenging, however.

Question 5

5 Read the passage and answer the question.

> ἔτι δὲ καὶ περὶ τῶν ἀθετουμένων στίχων ἐπηρώτων, εἰ ὑπ' ἐκείνου εἰσὶ
> γεγραμμένοι. καὶ ὃς ἔφασκε πάντας αὐτοῦ εἶναι. κατεγίνωσκον οὖν τῶν ἀμφὶ
> τὸν Ζηνόδοτον καὶ Ἀρίσταρχον γραμματικῶν πολλὴν τὴν ψυχρολογίαν. ἐπεὶ
> δὲ ταῦτα ἱκανῶς ἀπεκέκριτο, πάλιν αὐτὸν ἠρώτων τί δή ποτε ἀπὸ τῆς μήνιδος
> τὴν ἀρχὴν ἐποιήσατο· καὶ ὃς εἶπεν οὕτως ἐπελθεῖν αὐτῷ μηδὲν ἐπιτηδεύσαντι.   5

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 11b.10–16

How does Lucian show off his knowledge of Homer's poetry in this passage?

You should make **two** points, each supported by close reference to the Greek.

1 ....

....

....

....

2 ....

....

....

....

[4]

Note that style points are not required in this type of four-mark AO3 question when the passage is not accompanied by an English translation: two well-made content points can earn four marks. In general, candidates fared very well, finding plenty of material in the passage to answer the question. There was some confusion over which Homeric poem begins with the word 'wrath' (τῆς μήνιδος) but examiners enjoyed reading many excellent comments about the disputed lines (τῶν ἀθετουμένων στίχων) and Lucian's criticism of the Homeric scholars Zenodotus and Aristarchus.

Question 6 (a)

6   Read the passage and answer the questions.

> καὶ δή ποτε ὑπ' ἔρωτος καὶ ἀμηχανίας ἐβουλεύσατο ὁ Κινύρας ἁρπάσας
> τὴν Ἑλένην – ἐδόκει δὲ κἀκείνῃ ταῦτα – οἴχεσθαι ἀπιόντας ἔς τινα τῶν
> ἐπικειμένων νήσων, ἤτοι ἐς τὴν Φελλὼ ἢ ἐς τὴν Τυρόεσσαν. συνωμότας δὲ
> πάλαι προσειλήφεσαν τρεῖς τῶν ἑταίρων τῶν ἐμῶν τοὺς θρασυτάτους. τῷ
> μέντοι πατρὶ οὐκ ἐμήνυσε ταῦτα· ἠπίστατο γὰρ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ κωλυθησόμενος.   5

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 12a.7–13

(a)   How long had Lucian and his crew spent on the Island before Kinyras ran off with Helen?

.... **[1]**

This proved to be a challenging question, for almost all candidates. The detail that 'six months had passed…when new matters arose' is found in the section of the text immediately before this Greek passage. Although that section was not prescribed in Greek, in the Advance Information issued in February 2022, candidates were instructed to study the rest of the text in English to provide the necessary context.

Question 6 (b)

(b)   Κινύρας (line 1): give one detail about Kinyras which we have been told before this passage.

....

.... **[1]**

This question, on the other hand, was handled very well: almost all candidates earned the mark, describing Kinyras variously as tall, handsome or young. An impressive number remembered the name of his father, Scintharos.

Assessment for learning
Candidates should expect at least two context questions of this sort, drawn from anywhere in the prescription.

Question 6 (c)

(c) συνωμότας … κωλυθησόμενος (lines 3–5): for what reasons were some people aware of the plan but one particular person not informed? Make **two** points.

1 ....

....

....

....

2 ....

....

....

....

[4]

The great majority of candidates earned three or four marks here, extracting accurate details from the Greek to answer both parts of the question. Those who did not achieve full marks typically omitted the detail that the men chosen as partners in crime were 'the most reckless' of Lucian's companions. Some chose to mention Helen's willing involvement (ἐδόκει δὲ κἀκείνῃ ταῦτα) – a point which was not given marks since it falls outside the specified section of Greek.

Assessment for learning

Candidates are advised to pay careful attention to the section of the Greek specified in the question stem.

Question 7

7 Read the passage and answer the question.

> ὡς δὲ ἐδόκει αὐτοῖς, ἐτέλουν τὴν ἐπιβουλήν. καὶ ἐπειδὴ νὺξ ἐγένετο – ἐγὼ μὲν
> οὐ παρήμην· ἐτύγχανον γὰρ ἐν τῷ συμποσίῳ κοιμώμενος – οἱ δὲ λαθόντες τοὺς
> ἄλλους ἀναλαβόντες τὴν Ἑλένην ὑπὸ σπουδῆς ἀνήχθησαν.

Lucian, *The Truth, the Half Truth and nothing like the Truth* 12b.14–17

Translate this passage into English.

....

....

....

....

.... **[5]**

This translation was very well tackled: the majority of candidates earned 4 or 5 marks. A common mistake, treated as a minor error because it featured in even the best answers, was 'I was not there' for οὐ παρήμην (see below for clarification of this misconception). Other typical errors were 'since' for ἐπειδή; omission of ἐτύγχανον and failure to convey the force of the prefix in ἀναλαβόντες. 'Set out' was not accepted as a translation of ἀνήχθησαν, which almost always, and certainly in this context, means 'set sail'. Exemplar 3 illustrates two of these points.

Exemplar 3

And when it seemed good to them, they carried out their plan. And when it became night – I wasn't there; for I happened to be sleeping in the symposium – they, escaping notice of the others, having taken Helen, put out to sea at speed.

There are two minor errors in this otherwise very accurate translation: 'I was not there' for οὐ παρήμην and 'having taken' for ἀναλαβόντες. The response was therefore given 4/5.

Misconception

(?) The verb παρήμην does not come from πάρειμι (I am present) but from πάρημαι (I sit nearby). It is pluperfect in form, imperfect in meaning and means 'I was sitting nearby'. This is explained on p.255 of OCR's *Anthology for Classical Greek GCSE* and on p.65 of Sidwell's edition of selections from Lucian.

Question 8*

8* 'Despite the title of the work, there is nothing believable in Lucian's 'A True Story'.' Do you agree?

You should support your answer with a range of references to the text you have read, and you may include passages printed on the question paper.   **[10]**

There were some full and well-structured responses to this synoptic essay question, supported by plenty of apposite references to the prescribed text. Candidates managed to include a welcome range of examples from material not printed on the exam paper, and most referred to all three sections of the text (Shangri La, The Homeric Question and The Face that Launched a Thousand Ships). The question proved to be relatively straightforward and not wildly different from essays previously set on Lucian. Thus, those who had considered how Lucian combines fantasy and reality (2016) or whether life on the Isle of the Blest is free of earthly cares (2020) found themselves well prepared to demonstrate the knowledge and reasoning characteristic of Level 4 and 5 answers.

The best candidates used the stimulus quotation in the question to point out that Lucian explicitly denies the veracity of his story, warning his readers, in his introduction, that his 'True Story' is nothing of the sort, since none of his account is to be believed. There was ample supporting evidence supplied of improbable, fantastical details in the text (bathtubs filled with hot dew; delicate purple spider's webs for clothing; self-filling wine glasses; a conversation with Homer; an island made of cheese), but also some sensible discussion of the more realistic elements of Lucian's account. Answers of this sort earned the highest marks: indeed, some attempt at a counter-argument to the statement in the question was required for full marks. Thus, for example, candidates argued that the mutual attraction between the handsome, young Kinyras and the beautiful (if fictional) Helen represented plausible human behaviour.

Weaker responses tended to make only brief references to the text or to concentrate on a limited selection of the prescription, although very few mentioned just one of the three sections.

It was clear that candidates had enjoyed studying this text and had been very well prepared by their teachers.

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