

Examiners' report

GCSE

CLASSICAL GREEK

**OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in
Classical Greek**

J292

For first teaching in 2016

J292/01 Summer 2025 series

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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 responses is 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 [Teach Cambridge](#).

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Paper 1 series overview

J292/01 (Language) is the compulsory component of GCSE (9-1) Classical Greek. It is worth 100 marks, representing 50% of the total marks for the GCSE. Classical Greek Language is an externally assessed written examination testing AO1. This component focuses on:

- translation
- comprehension questions
- either questions on syntax and accidence within the context of a narrative passage or translation of short English sentences into Classical Greek
- derivation of English words from Classical Greek.

Examiners considered this paper to be of a fair and appropriate standard, resulting in a good spread of marks. The standard of candidates' performance was generally very high, and there were a handful of completely accurate scripts.

There was no evidence that any candidate struggled to finish the examination within the allotted time. Of the two options offered to candidates, the vast majority of candidates were prepared to answer the grammar questions rather than the English to Classical Greek sentences, although some candidates did attempt both.

There were some very good translations and good comprehension of the different passages. Candidates should be reminded to read the introduction to the passages and also read other details provided. Unnecessary errors were made when candidates did not use the vocabulary provided. Some candidates did not read the comprehension questions carefully enough, which resulted in incorrect answers and/or omissions. Candidates should be reminded not to give alternative answers as these can lead to harmful additions, which are penalised.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
• had a strong understanding of pronouns • had a strong knowledge of the defined vocabulary list • understood the importance of prepositions and the cases which follow them • made use of the information provided by the glossaries (e.g. gender of words and principal parts) • scored 4 or 5 marks in most sections of the translation question • translated purpose clauses accurately • focused on person endings of verbs in translation.	• gave incorrect alternatives to an otherwise correct response • were confused by words which look a little similar • lacked thorough vocabulary knowledge • did not read the introduction to the passages and thus missed the overview which might have kept them on track • omitted words in the translation question • translated words in the order they appeared in the text rather than working out grammatical agreements • scored 1 mark (isolated knowledge of vocabulary only) or 2 marks (part correct, but overall sense lacking/unclear) in the translation question • translated singular nouns as plural and vice versa.

Section A overview

Comprehension questions (Questions 1–9) were fully accessible to all candidates. Candidates should look at the number of marks available and at the lines referenced in the lemma and provide sufficient details. This section contains the derivation question, which proved more difficult for candidates this year.

There is an option in this section between some grammar questions (Question 10) and English to Greek sentences (Question 11). The vast majority of candidates attempted the grammar questions and very few attempted only the English to Greek sentences. Some candidates did both; this is accepted and the higher mark of the two options is given.

Although some candidates may have already known the myth of the Argonauts and the Harpies, they should in general be commended for translating the Greek in front of them rather than relying on knowledge of the story.

Question 1

The Argonauts, while searching for the Golden Fleece, save the prophet Phineus from the monstrous Harpies.

οἱ Ἀργοναῦται πολλὰς ἡμέρας πλεύσαντες ἦλθον πρὸς μικρὰν πόλιν. ἐκεῖ δὲ ὤκει γέρον τις, Φινεύς ὀνόματι, ὃς οἶός τ' ἦν ὁρᾶν τὰ μέλλοντα. ἀλλὰ πάλαι τοῖς θεοῖς ἔδοξεν κολάζειν αὐτὸν διότι ἐδίδασκε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους πολλὰ περὶ τῶν μελλόντων. ἔπεμψαν οὖν τὰς Ἀρπυίας ἵνα κλέπτωσι τὸν σῖτον αὐτοῦ καὶ κωλύωσιν αὐτὸν ἐσθίειν τε καὶ πίνειν.

5

ὁ δὲ Φινεύς εἶπε τοῖς Ἀργοναύταις, 'ἐὰν ἀποπέμψητε τὰς Ἀρπυίας ἀπὸ ταύτης τῆς γῆς, ὑμῖν ἐρῶ ποῦ εὐρήσετε τὸ χρυσόμαλλον δέρας.'

οἱ μὲν οὖν Ἀργοναῦται ἐποίησαν μέγα δεῖπνον καὶ κρυψάμενοι λάθρα ἔμειναν. ἐπεὶ δὲ αἱ Ἀρπυιαι ἀφίκοντο, εὐθὺς οἱ Βορεάδαι, πτερωτοὶ ὄντες, αὐτὰς ἐδίωκον εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν. μετὰ δὲ πολὺν χρόνον αἱ Ἀρπυιαι ἐπαύσαντο φεύγουσαι καὶ ὑπέσχοντο μηδέποτε αὐθις βλάψειν τὸν Φινέα.

10

Names

Ἀργοναῦται, Ἀργοναύτων, οἱ	the Argonauts (a mythical group of sailors)
Φινεύς, Φινέως, ὁ	Phineus
Ἀρπυιαι, Ἀρπυίων, αἱ	the Harpies (half-human, half-bird monsters)
Βορεάδαι, Βορεάδων, οἱ	the sons of Boreas (two members of the Argonauts who could fly)

Words

μέλλοντα, μελλόντων, τὰ	the future
τὸ χρυσόμαλλον δέρας	the Golden Fleece
πτερωτός, πτερωτή, πτερωτόν	winged

- 1 οἱ Ἀργοναῦται πολλὰς ἡμέρας πλεύσαντες ἦλθον πρὸς μικρὰν πόλιν (line 1): where did the Argonauts arrive after many days of sailing?

..... [1]

This was well answered with the vast majority of candidates answering it correctly.

Question 2

- 2 ἐκεῖ δὲ ᾤκει γέρων τις, Φινεὺς ὀνόματι, ὃς οἶός τ' ἦν ὁρᾶν τὰ μέλλοντα (lines 1–2): state **two** things which we learn about Phineus.

1

2

[2]

Candidates were able to earn the 2 marks in three different ways with most choosing that Phineus 'was an old man' and that 'he was able to see the future'. Some candidates also added that 'he lived there'.

Question 3

- 3 ἀλλὰ πάλαι τοῖς θεοῖς ἔδοξεν κολάζειν αὐτὸν διότι ἐδίδασκε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους πολλά περὶ τῶν μελλόντων (lines 2–4): why had the gods decided to punish Phineus?

.....

..... [2]

While most candidates answered this correctly there were occasional mistranslations of ἐδίδασκε (for example, 'he saw') and more frequently errors of noun-adjective agreement pertaining to translating τοὺς ἀνθρώπους πολλά as 'many men'.

Exemplar 1

ἀλλὰ πάλαι τοῖς θεοῖς ἔδοξεν κολάζειν αὐτὸν διότι ἐδίδασκε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους πολλά περὶ τῶν μελλόντων (lines 2–4): why had the gods decided to punish Phineus?

Because he taught ^{many of} the men about the future

This response provides an example of a candidate misunderstanding the noun-adjective agreement. It achieves 1 mark out of 2 as although 'many of the men' is incorrect for the second mark, 'he taught' is correct for 1 mark.

Question 4

- 4 ἔπεμψαν οὖν τὰς Ἀρπυίας ἵνα κλέπτωσι τὸν σῆτον αὐτοῦ καὶ κωλύωσιν αὐτὸν ἐσθίειν τε καὶ πίνειν (lines 4–5): as well as stealing Phineus' food, what else were the Harpies sent to do?

.....
 [2]

This question was answered well overall, particularly comprehension of ἐσθίειν and πίνειν. Those who answered it less well either mistranslated κωλύωσιν as 'they ordered' or omitted it completely.

Assessment for learning



This section contains two pronouns which caused difficulties. This is a common theme throughout the language paper and centres would be advised to spend time investing in a strong understanding of pronouns.

Question 5

- 5 ὁ δὲ Φινεύς εἶπε τοῖς Ἀργοναύταις, 'ἐὰν ἀποπέμψητε τὰς Ἀρπυίας ἀπὸ ταύτης τῆς γῆς, ὑμῖν ἐρῶ ποῦ εὐρήσετε τὸ χουσόμαλλον δέρας.' (lines 6–7): what did Phineus say he would do if the Argonauts sent away the Harpies?

.....
 [2]

Many candidates were able to recognise ἐρῶ. Where it caused problems, the most common error was 'I ask' or similar. Some candidates erroneously translated ποῦ as 'how'. The verb εὐρήσετε caused occasional difficulties of tense, person and meaning.

Question 6

- 6 οἱ μὲν οὖν Ἀργοναῦται ἐποίησαν μέγα δεῖπνον καὶ κρυψάμενοι λάθρα ἔμειναν (line 8): what did the Argonauts do after making a big dinner?

.....
 [2]

This question was a good differentiator. The sense of the middle participle was managed well by most candidates. However, a number of candidates mistranslated λάθρα as 'silently/in silence' or omitted it.

Question 7 (a)

7 ἐπεὶ δὲ αἱ Ἀρπυιαὶ ἀφίκοντο, εὐθὺς οἱ Βορεάδαι, πτερωτοὶ ὄντες, αὐτὰς ἐδίωκον εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν (lines 9–10):

(a) how soon after the Harpies arrived did the sons of Boreas chase them away?

..... [1]

This question was answered well by the vast majority of candidates.

Question 7 (b)

(b) where did they chase the Harpies?

..... [1]

This answer was well known with plurals also accepted (e.g. 'into the skies/heavens').

Question 8

8 μετὰ δὲ πολὺν χρόνον αἱ Ἀρπυιαὶ ἐπαύσαντο φεύγουσαι καὶ ὑπέσχοντο μηδέποτε αὖθις βλάψειν τὸν Φινέα (lines 10–11): how did things turn out well for Phineus in the end?

.....

 [3]

Many candidates answered this question correctly. Those who answered it less well:

- incorrectly translated or omitted ὑπέσχοντο
- mistranslated μηδέποτε
- omitted αὖθις.

Question 9

- 9 For each of the Greek words below, give **one** English word which has been derived from the Greek word and give the meaning of the **English** word.

One has been done for you.

Greek Word:	ἡμέρας
English Word:	ephemeral
Meaning of English Word:	lasting for a very short amount of time
Greek Word:	γέρων
English Word:	
Meaning of English Word:	 [2]
Greek Word:	περὶ
English Word:	
Meaning of English Word:	 [2]

While many candidates answered this question well, the derivations caused more difficulty this year on the whole.

There was a good range of answers for περὶ including 'periscope', 'perimeter', 'perimenopause' and 'peripheral'.

Candidates struggled further with γέρων, particularly in providing an accurate meaning of the English word they provided. Answers for the English word included 'geriatric', 'gerontocracy' and 'gerontology'.

Question 10 (a)

10 Answer the following questions based on part of the story you have already read.

ὁ δὲ Φινεύς εἶπε τοῖς Ἀργοναύταις, 'ἐὰν ἀποπέμψητε τὰς Ἀρπυίας ἀπὸ ταύτης τῆς γῆς, ὑμῖν ἐρῶ ποῦ εὕρησете τὸ χρυσόμαλλον δέρας.'

οἱ μὲν οὖν Ἀργοναῦται ἐποίησαν μέγα δεῖπνον καὶ κρυψάμενοι λάθρα ἔμειναν. ἐπεὶ δὲ αἱ Ἀρπυιαί ἀφίκοντο, εὐθὺς οἱ Βορεάδαι, πτερωτοὶ ὄντες, αὐτὰς ἐδίωκον εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν. μετὰ δὲ πολὺν χρόνον αἱ Ἀρπυιαί ἐπαύσαντο φεύγουσαι καὶ ὑπέσχοντο μηδέποτε αὖθις βλάψειν τὸν Φινέα.

5

Names

Φινεύς, Φινέως, ὁ
Ἀρπυιαί, Ἀρπυίων, αἱ
Ἀργοναῦται, Ἀργοναύτων, οἱ
Βορεάδαι, Βορεάδων, οἱ

Phineus
the Harpies (half-human, half-bird monsters)
the Argonauts (a mythical group of sailors)
the sons of Boreas (two members of the
Argonauts who could fly)

Words

τὸ χρυσόμαλλον δέρας
πτερωτός, πτερωτή, πτερωτόν

the Golden Fleece
winged

(a) Identify the **case** of τῆς (line 2) **and** explain why this case is used here.

..... [2]

This question was answered well with the majority of candidates identifying that the case was genitive. However, some candidates were unable to link the case with the pronoun ἀπὸ, leading to inaccuracies.

Question 10 (b)

(b) Pick out a **masculine** word in line 3.

..... [1]

Most candidates answered this question correctly. However a number incorrectly answered δεῖπνον.

Assessment for learning



Centres should consider spending time on past paper questions and mark schemes focusing particularly on the grammar section.

For example, in this question, there is a definite article in the masculine case in line 3 which most candidates will learn early in their language learning.

There is also a glossed word in line 3 which is masculine and time spent reviewing glossed words and what details a candidate can glean from them would be worthwhile.

Question 10 (c)

(c) Identify the **tense** and **person** of ἔμειναν (line 4).

..... [2]

Most candidates answered this question correctly. A number erroneously answered 'Imperfect'. Some candidates were unclear on how to answer 'person' or chose the wrong person.

Exemplar 2

weak aorist 2nd person plural [2]

This response has correctly identified that the correct tense of ἔμειναν is Weak Aorist (although centres should note that candidates are able to write simply 'Aorist' to get the mark). However, the '2nd person plural' for the person of ἔμειναν was incorrectly answered. Centres should also note that there is no need to include whether the person is singular or plural – the question only asks for the person to be identified. A candidate who answered '3rd person singular' would not get the mark as the word *singular* would be classed as a harmful addition.

Question 10 (d)

(d) Pick out an **adverb** in line 4.

..... [1]

The majority of candidates answered this question correctly although some selected λάθρα from line 3, which wasn't accepted.

Question 10 (e)

(e) Identify the **tense** of ἐδίωκον (line 5).

..... [1]

A significant number of candidates incorrectly answered 'aorist' but most were able to identify the imperfect tense.

Question 10 (f)

(f) Pick out a **preposition** in line 5.

..... [1]

Most candidates were able to identify either εἰς or μετὰ, with εἰς the more popular choice.

Question 10 (g)

(g) Identify the **case** of τὸν (line 5) and explain why this case is used here.

..... [2]

The majority of candidates were able to identify the accusative case as the correct answer.

Some candidates incorrectly identified a different case but were still able to achieve the second mark as they had understood that the case was linked to the preposition εἰς.

Others, who had correctly identified the accusative case, incorrectly explained why the case was used, with many stating it was the object of the sentence.

Question 11 (a)

11 Translate the following English sentences into Greek.

(a) Many citizens fell bravely.

.....
 [4]

Candidates dealt very well with the adverb and the tricky strong aorist verb – although some candidates gave the verb a third-person singular ending. The area which candidates did less well was the agreement of πολλοί and πολῖται.

Question 11 (b)

(b) Did they hide the stones?

.....
 [3]

This question seemed to be the one completed the best by candidates.

Almost all candidates put ἄρα at the beginning and the vast majority were able to put the correct form of 'they hide'.

The biggest issue on this question was 'the stones', with some candidates incorrectly using the singular τὸν λίθον instead of τοὺς λίθους.

Question 11 (c)

(c) You are a strong goddess.

.....
 [3]

Candidates found this the most difficult of the English to Greek sentences.

Many responses struggled to provide the correct form of the verb 'you are' or knew that it takes a nominative complement. Many also did not know the correct vocabulary for 'strong' or were not able to provide the form which correctly agreed with 'goddess'. The word 'goddess' in the correct form was completed very accurately.

Section B overview

Section B is a more challenging section with 20 marks available for more difficult comprehension questions and 50 marks available for a continuous translation question.

Question 12

The Spartans face brave resistance to their rule of Messenia and they fail in their attempt to kill Aristomenes, the leader of the rebellion.

οἱ Λακεδαιμόνιοι ἦσαν δεσπότες τῆς Μεσσηνίας ἀλλὰ ὁ Ἀριστομένης ἐβούλετο σῶζειν τὴν χώραν. πολλοὺς οὖν ἀνδρειοὺς ἤγαγεν ἐπὶ τοὺς Λακεδαιμονίους καὶ ἐνίκησεν ὀλίγας νίκας.

ἐν μάχῃ μέντοι λίθῳ μεγάλῳ βληθεὶς ἐλήφθη ὡς αἰχμάλωτος μετὰ πεντήκοντα ἄλλων. τοῖς δὲ Λακεδαιμονίοις ἔδοξε καταβαλεῖν αὐτοὺς κατὰ κρημνοῦ εἰς βάραθρον. καὶ οὕτως ὑψηλὸς ἦν ὁ κρημνός ὥστε πάντες πλὴν ὁ Ἀριστομένης εὐθὺς ἀπέθανον. ἀλλὰ οὐχ οἷός τ' ὦν ἐκφυγεῖν, τρεῖς μὲν ἡμέρας μόνος ἐκάθιζεν· τῇ δὲ τετάρτῃ, ἐπεὶ ἄλωπέκιον ἐφάνη, αὐτῷ ἔσπετο ἵνα ἴδῃ πῶς εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ βάραθρον. καὶ δι' ὀλίγου ἤσθετο τὸ φῶς καὶ ταῖς χερσὶ χρησάμενος ἐποίησεν ὁδὸν ἐκ τοῦ βαράθρου.

5

10

Names

Μεσσηνία, Μεσσηνίας, ἡ
Ἀριστομένης, Ἀριστομένους, ὁ

Messenia (a region of Greece)
Aristomenes

Words

πεντήκοντα
κρημνός, κρημνοῦ, ὁ
βάραθρον, βαράθρου, τό
ἄλωπέκιον, ἄλωπεκίου, τό
φῶς, φωτός, τό

fifty
cliff
pit
fox cub
light, daylight

12 οἱ Λακεδαιμόνιοι ἦσαν δεσπότες τῆς Μεσσηνίας ἀλλὰ ὁ Ἀριστομένης ἐβούλετο σῶζειν τὴν χώραν (lines 1–2): what did Aristomenes want to do?

..... [2]

Most candidates answered this question correctly. Where difficulties arose they were to do with the meaning of σῶζειν with incorrect answers often including 'find' and 'conquer'.

Question 13

- 13** πολλοὺς οὖν ἀνδρείους ἤγαγεν ἐπὶ τοὺς Λακεδαιμονίους καὶ ἐνίκησεν ὀλίγας νίκας (lines 2–3): what happened when he led many brave men against the Spartans?

.....
 [2]

Many candidates were able to answer this question correctly. A number translated ὀλίγας as small or little which was not accepted.

Question 14

- 14** ἐν μάχῃ μέντοι λίθῳ μεγάλῳ βληθεὶς ἐλήφθη ὡς αἰχμάλωτος μετὰ πεντήκοντα ἄλλων (lines 4–5): what **two** things happened to Aristomenes in battle?

1
 2 [4]

This question caused many problems and only the best responses were able to score 4 out of 4 marks. Incorrect responses included these common errors:

- λίθῳ μεγάλῳ βληθεὶς: μεγάλῳ being translated as a superlative; λίθῳ being translated as a plural; an answer such as 'a big stone was thrown' not showing clearly who was being thrown at
- ἐλήφθη ὡς αἰχμάλωτος: ἐλήφθη translated as 'he was freed' / 'he was left', or a misunderstanding of the grammar leading to active translations such as 'he captured 50 prisoners of war'.

Question 15

- 15** τοῖς δὲ Λακεδαιμονίοις ἔδοξε καταβαλεῖν αὐτοὺς κατὰ κομηνοῦ εἰς βάραθρον (line 5–6): what did the Spartans decide to do?

..... [1]

The compound verb καταβαλεῖν caused problems for some candidates although the most common error was translating αὐτοὺς as 'him'.

Question 16

16 καὶ οὕτως ὑψηλὸς ἦν ὁ κορυμνὸς ὥστε πάντες πλὴν ὁ Ἀριστομένης εὐθὺς ἀπέθανον (lines 6–7): write down **and** translate the **Greek** word which describes the cliff.

Greek word	English translation

[2]

The majority of candidates were able to select ὑψηλὸς correctly with most then also providing an accurate English translation. Some candidates erroneously provided more than one Greek word.

Question 17 (a)

17 ἀλλὰ οὐχ οἷός τ' ὦν ἐκφυγεῖν, τρεῖς μὲν ἡμέρας μόνος ἐκάθιζεν (line 7):

(a) what was Aristomenes unable to do?

..... [1]

This question was answered well by the majority of candidates. Where errors occurred they were to do with a mistranslation of ἐκφυγεῖν as 'flee' or 'run away'.

Question 17 (b)

(b) what did he do as a result?

.....
 [3]

This question was well-answered by the majority of candidates. The most frequent errors were:

- τρεῖς... ἡμέρας: some candidates put 'nights' instead of 'days'
- μόνος: this was occasionally omitted or translated as 'only' which was not accepted in this context
- ἐκάθιζεν: this was the most common error with many candidates who made errors making one on this verb by confusing καθίζω (I sit) with καθεύδω (I sleep).

Question 18 (a)

18 τῇ δὲ τετάρτῃ, ἐπεὶ ἄλωπέκιον ἐφάνη, αὐτῷ ἔσπετο ἵνα ἴδῃ πῶς εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ βαράθρον (lines 8–9):

(a) when did a fox cub appear?

..... [1]

A large majority of candidates answered this question correctly although a small proportion incorrectly answered, 'on the third day'.

Question 18 (b)

(b) why did Aristomenes follow the fox cub?

.....
..... [3]

This question proved challenging for a number of candidates. The purpose clause was well-answered on the whole although ἴδῃ was frequently translated as 'to know'. Many candidates also omitted or mistranslated πῶς. The compound verb εἰσῆλθεν was dealt with well by the vast majority of candidates, which was encouraging to see as this verb has caused difficulties for candidates in other years.

Question 19

19 καὶ δι' ὀλίγου ἦσθετο τὸ φῶς καὶ ταῖς χερσὶ χρησάμενος ἐποίησεν ὁδὸν ἐκ τοῦ βαράθρου (lines 9–10): how did Aristomenes make a way out of the pit?

..... [1]

This question was well answered by the vast majority of candidates.

Question 20

Aristomenes continues his resistance to the Spartans from his stronghold deep in Messenia, but he eventually suffers defeat.

ἔπειτα δὲ ὁ Ἀριστομένης ἀνδρείως ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ ὄρη. ἐκεῖ δὲ ἐκέλευσε τοὺς ἐνοίκους οἰκοδομεῖν μεγάλα τεῖχη ἵνα ἀσφαλεῖς εἶεν. δέκα μὲν οὖν ἔτη οἱ τ' ἦσαν ἀμύνεσθαι τοῖς Λακεδαιμονίοις· τέλος δὲ οἱ πολέμιοι ἀπέκτειναν πολλοὺς στρατιώτας καὶ εἰς τὴν πόλιν εἰσῆλθον.

ὁ δὲ Ἀριστομένης πάντα τὸν δῆμον εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν σύλλεξας ἐβόησεν τοῖς Λακεδαιμονίοις· ἥδη ἡμᾶς ἐνίκησατε. ἀλλὰ οὐδέποτε, δοῦλοι ὄντες, ὑμῖν πεισόμεθα. ἐὰν ἡμᾶς λύσητε μηδὲ ἀδικήσητε τοὺς ἡμετέρους παῖδας, ἄπιμεν ἀπὸ τῆς πόλεως ἐν εἰρήνῃ. οἱ οὖν Λακεδαιμόνιοι πιστεύοντες τούτοις τοῖς λόγοις ἀπέπεμψαν αὐτοὺς.

5

ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐξέφυγον, καίπερ τῶν Μεσσηνίων αἰτούντων τὸν Ἀριστομένην ἄγειν ἑαυτοὺς πρὸς νέαν χώραν, οὐκ ἔφη ἐθέλειν φεύγειν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἣν μάλιστα ἐφίλει.

10

Names

Ἀριστομένης, Ἀριστομένους, ὁ
Μεσσήνιοι, Μεσσηνίων, οἱ

Aristomenes
the Messenians

Words

οἰκοδομέω
ἀμύνομαι (+ dat.)

I build
I resist

20 Translate the rest of the story into good English.

[50]

20 (i) Performance on this short section was generally strong. Common errors included:

- mistranslation of ἔπειτα
- ἀνδρείως being treated as an adjective rather than an adverb (e.g. 'the brave Aristomenes')
- mistranslation of ἀνεχώρησεν with attempts such as 'he went' and 'he climbed' being common
- not translating ὄρη as plural.

Assessment for learning



Centres could aid candidates in accurate translation by supporting candidates in how to look at a definite article that is going with a noun. This would allow candidates two ways to get the correct number and case of a noun. In 20 (i), understanding τὰ as plural would support accurate translation of ὄρη.

20 (ii) The majority of candidates copied well in this section, particularly with the purpose clause. The most common errors included:

- mistranslation of τοὺς ἐνοίκους
- translation of μεγάλα τείχη as singular.

20 (iii) This section was completed well by the majority of candidates. Some frequent errors included:

- omission of οὖν
- knowledge of the vocabulary for ἔτη or translations of δέκα ... ἔτη as 'after 10 years'
- οἱ τ' ἔσαν being translated as 'he was able'.

20 (iv) Despite containing many potential pitfalls this section was answered very well. Common errors for centres to note were:

- omission of the connection δὲ (the μὲν was in section 20(iii)) which was penalised as an inconsequential error
- πολέμιοι being translated as 'wars' rather than 'enemy'
- reversal of the subject and object in examples such as 'the soldiers killed many enemies'
- εἰσῆλθον occasionally translated this as 'left/ /went out of'.

20 (v) This was a challenging section. A minority of candidates translated ἀγορὰν as 'field' while others had difficulty with the meaning of δῆμον. The participle σύλλεξας caused problems with regards to translation: Many candidates translated it as a main verb (e.g. 'gathered'), which was allowed as long as there was a suitable connection with the main verb ἐβόησεν. This verb itself caused vocabulary issues with many candidates mistranslating it as 'he helped'.

20 (vi) This section was found to be more challenging. Many candidates did not know the meaning of the adverb ἤδη, with 'indeed' a common error. Some candidates did not identify the case of ἡμᾶς correctly, with many making it nominative. Those who did this often also then translated the verb ἐνίκησατε incorrectly, not noticing that the verb is second-person plural. The negative οὐδέποτε also caused many

candidates problems with 'nobody' a frequent error. Finally, the form of ὑμῖν and the meaning and the person ending of πεισόμεθα caused even the best of candidates difficulties.

20 (vii) This section proved to be the most challenging for many candidates. Particular errors included:

- reversal of subject and object: 'if we free you'
- lack of connection in μηδὲ often leading candidates to offer an alternative subject (e.g. the children do no wrong) or μηδὲ taken as a prohibition ('do not...')
- ἡμετέρους: frequently translated as 'your'
- ἄπιμεν: often translated as a jussive such as 'let us go'.

20 (viii) Many candidates were able to translate this section correctly. Where errors occurred they included:

- omission of οὖν
- mistranslation of πιστεύοντες, often as 'being persuaded'
- τούτοις being omitted or being translated incorrectly – with 'such' a common mistake
- mistranslation of αὐτοὺς as 'themselves'.

20 (ix) This section was well translated by most candidates. Errors included:

- ἐπεὶ being translated as 'then'
- ἐξέφυγον being translated as 'he escaped' or 'they fled'
- understanding of the genitive absolute where subjects and objects were often confused
- αἰτούντων translated as 'being worthy'
- ἄγειν: candidates often did not recognise Aristomenes as the subject of this verb
- ἐαυτοὺς was frequently translated as 'him'.

20 (x) This section was well-answered by the majority of candidates although the construction with οὐκ ἔφη did cause problems and is an area which centres should focus on. The other main issue was mistranslation of μάλιστα.

Exemplar 3

" You have won
now. But we will never, being slaves, obey.

In this exemplar from Question 20 (vi), the candidate gets lots of the translation correct. However, the candidate omits two pronouns, ἡμᾶς ('us') and ὑμῖν ('to you'). As a result this fits the criteria for 3 marks out of 5 marks: 'Overall meaning clear, but more serious errors or omissions'.

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