

2023 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Latin
Level:	Level 2
Achievement standard(s):	91194, 91195

General commentary

These achievement standards involve translating adapted Latin text of medium complexity into English, demonstrating understanding, and interpreting adapted Latin text of medium complexity, demonstrating understanding.

It is recommended that candidates read the introduction carefully to get the context before starting the translation and the interpretation of the text. Successful candidates used the vocabulary list to establish not only the meaning, but also the part of speech and relevant information (such as declension, conjugation, and irregular formation) of words.

In questions that require candidates to provide Latin evidence and a translation of that evidence, candidates need to restrict that evidence to ONLY the relevant word(s), not the whole sentence. It was pleasing to see that many candidates followed this instruction.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91114: Translate adapted Latin text of medium complexity, demonstrating understanding

Assessment

The translation paper required candidates to translate a passage of adapted Latin text accurately into English. The passage of approximately 150 words was of narrative prose based on authentic Latin, adapted to conform to the requirements of Curriculum Level 7. A glossary was provided and candidates were expected to display knowledge of Latin syntax and grammar up to and including Curriculum Level 7 in their translations.

Commentary

The most successful candidates identified ablative absolutes and translated them into natural English using a clause structure. These candidates typically handled the reported speech very well. The expression *more maiorum* was troublesome to many, as was the case of *centurioni*. Most candidates handled noun and adjective agreement well and were accurate in their translation of verb tenses. Most candidates got a good general sense of the passage.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- recognised straightforward plurals, such as *amicos*

- translated prepositional phrases, such as *a senatu*, accurately
- translated imperfect tenses in an appropriate way, such as *appropinquabant* as “were approaching”
- produced a translation conveying most of the basic elements of the passage
- used the vocabulary list accurately.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- translated passive verb forms, such as *remota esset*, correctly
- recognised cases correctly when there were different possible options, such as *pyxīs*, which was nominative and not genitive
- translated straightforward passive infinitives, such as *inveniri*, accurately
- linked *se* with *ante* in line 9, rather than *iussit* or *aedificari*
- translated present participles as participles, rather than finite verbs, such as *exclamans*
- recognised that “his” was plural.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- recognised and translated more challenging ablative absolute phrases into natural English, such as *nemine respondente*
- identified and accurately translated *ad* + gerundive, showing purpose.
- gave a natural rendition of the expression *qualis artifex pereo*
- recognised that *irrupenti* and *centurioni* were dative and agreed, and were able to translate this in an idiomatic way
- translated reported speech accurately and confidently translated different tenses of the infinitive.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not identify number in nouns, such as *equum*, which was translated in the plural
- missed out phrases
- did not make full use of the vocabulary list
- did not recognise voice or mood of verbs, such as *agnosceretur*
- did not translate reported speech in a natural manner.

Achievement standard 91195: Interpret adapted Latin text of medium complexity.

Assessment

The examination consisted of a narrative text of approximately 150 words divided into three paragraphs, with five questions attached to each paragraph. Candidates were expected to interpret in detail the content and grammar of the passage. The passage was based on an authentic Latin text adapted to conform to the requirements of Curriculum Level 7. A glossary was provided.

Commentary

The most successful candidates interpreted the text accurately by careful examination of the Latin. In questions relating to character, they provided clear, succinct, and specific details

from the text to support their answers. Some candidates struggled with the grammar questions, but most showed some understanding. Some candidates did not provide Latin evidence when it was specifically asked for in the question.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- answered most parts of most questions
- understood the basic narrative of the text
- gave Latin evidence and a translation as required, such as in Question Two (a)
- drew conclusions about the character of Masinissa in Question Three (c), but lacked specific evidence to support those conclusions
- showed understanding by identifying subjunctive verbs, such as *captus sit* for Question Two (e).

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- showed a deeper knowledge of grammatical forms that allowed them not only to identify items as required, but also explain them in further detail, such as explaining why the subjunctive mood was being used
- used the vocabulary list effectively to choose the best meaning of *capere* in line 11
- showed a clear understanding of demonstrative adjectives and included those details in their responses, such as for Question One (a) (ii)
- gave the exact Latin evidence and did not over-quote
- recognised superlatives, such as *fidelissimo*, and used that detail in their answers.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- displayed an excellent knowledge of syntax and grammar, often getting all or almost all of the (e) parts of each question correct
- drew conclusions about the character of both main characters and provided specific detail to illustrate each point
- answered all parts of the questions, providing all details. In Question Two (d), for example, they included the detail of the verb *posset*
- rendered Latin expressions in natural English within their answers, such as the word *ipse*
- explained precisely which characters were involved in specific actions, such as, for Question Three (a), recognising that it was both Syphax and his wife who had become the spoils of war.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not answer most parts of the questions
- demonstrated a confused understanding of the passage
- did not make full use of the vocabulary list
- did not recognise that there were three grammatical subjects to the first sentence in direct speech in Paragraph One
- did not distinguish between active and passive infinitives
- did not give both Latin words and their translations when asked to do so.