

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Classical Studies Level 1

- 91021 Demonstrate understanding of ideas and values of the classical world**
- 91022 Demonstrate understanding of the significance of features of work(s) of art in the classical world**
- 91023 Demonstrate understanding of an important historical figure in the classical world**

COMMENTARY

This was the first year that Classical Studies was examined at Level 1. The cohort for each standard was small, but will hopefully grow over the next few years.

Successful candidates answered all parts of questions and followed instructions carefully. Merit and Excellence grades were more often achieved by those candidates who took the time to carefully select which questions to answer, and wrote logically structured responses that answered each bullet point in turn.

There was evidence of prepared responses across all three standards. Candidates who adopted this approach rarely or barely achieved. Similarly, a 'write all you know' approach seldom resulted in more than an Achievement grade.

STANDARD REPORTS

91021 Demonstrate understanding of ideas and values of the classical world

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- wrote responses that covered part of the questions
- provided a basic explanation of ideas and values
- wrote responses with some relevance to the questions
- wrote prepared responses with some relevance to the questions.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- wrote plot summaries
- did not relate responses to the values of the classical world
- did not answer both parts of the questions
- wrote very brief responses, or irrelevant, prepared responses
- did not read the questions carefully.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- approached their answer in a clear and logical manner
- answered all parts of the questions, although often not in equal depth
- referred to a range of supporting evidence from the text
- showed an awareness of the classical audience.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- wrote in a clear and logical manner
- answered all parts of the questions fully and at length
- included a wide range of supporting evidence
- demonstrated an understanding of the wider cultural context
- used Greek terms
- used a sophisticated vocabulary.

OTHER COMMENTS

A total of 32 scripts from two contributing schools were assessed against the standard. The texts used were Sophocles' *Antigone* and Homer's *Iliad*.

Although this standard does not require responses in essay format, candidates who addressed both parts of the question in an opening paragraph were much more focussed in their responses and more likely to answer both parts of the question.

Some candidates made comparisons between the classical world and the 21st Century, but as irrelevant to the questions asked, these comparisons did nothing to enhance their answers.

91022 Demonstrate understanding of the significance of features of work(s) of art in the classical world

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- wrote responses that covered parts of the questions
- demonstrated a basic knowledge of the art works
- wrote prepared responses with some relevance to the questions.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not answer the required number of questions
- wrote irrelevant, prepared responses.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- answered all parts of the questions in some detail
- answered one question in more detail than the other
- demonstrated sound knowledge of the art works.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- answered all part of the questions with a high level of detail
- demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of the art works
- wrote focused and thorough responses.

OTHER COMMENTS

A total of 59 candidates were assessed against the standard.

Some candidates wrote responses to one question that would have been better suited to another. Candidates are advised to select questions that best suit the art works they have studied.

91023 Demonstrate understanding of an important historical figure in the classical world

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- answered only one part of the question (usually the first part)
- displayed a very basic understanding of the subject matter
- provided limited supporting evidence.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- demonstrated a very limited understanding of the question
- provided no supporting evidence or irrelevant supporting evidence
- wrote very little
- did not answer the question.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- demonstrated an understanding of both parts of the question
- provided an informed explanation of the subject matter
- answered both parts of the question
- provided accurate, clear, and relevant supporting evidence
- wrote a well structured response.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- demonstrated a clear and thorough understanding of the question
- answered both parts of the question in equal depth and in detail
- provided a wide range of accurate and relevant supporting evidence
- showed a thorough knowledge of, and insight into, the subject matter
- wrote a fluent and logically structured response.

OTHER COMMENTS

A total of 170 candidates were assessed against the standard. The figures studied were Julius Caesar, Augustus, Cleopatra, Alexander, and Nero.

Many candidates did not provide a clear response to all parts of the question. In order to achieve at Merit or Excellence, candidates must make sure they directly answer both of the bullet points in their chosen question.