

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 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

2012 was the second year Classical Studies was examined at Level 1. The cohort for each standard was small but there was a significant increase of entries for each standard compared to 2011.

Successful candidates followed the instructions carefully and chose questions which best suited their learning. These candidates made use of the planning sections. They addressed all parts of the question within their response while refraining from writing all they knew on the topic. Candidates who followed the order of the question were more successful in addressing all aspects of the question. These responses were usually better structured.

Merit and Excellence answers gave equal focus to each aspect of the question. Candidate answers did not stray from the aspects addressed in the selected question. Supporting evidence was used to help demonstrate a perceptive understanding. These answers were well thought out and logically developed.

There was evidence of prepared answers for specific contexts. Usually these answers had little relevance to the selected question and these candidates struggled to achieve.

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:

- referred to examples in their answers, but struggled to explain the relevance of these examples
- re-told the plot
- gave brief references to the ideas and values
- answered parts of each question.

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:

- omitted to answer parts of the questions
- did not refer to the ideas and values of the Classical world
- referred to incorrect information for example, information based on film versions of the text
- wrote vague, non-specific answers or prepared answers that did not address the questions.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- referred to a range of examples from the text
- explained the relevance of examples to the questions
- answered both parts of the questions in a clear and logical manner
- discussed the relevant ideas and values in detail
- provided a knowledgeable discussion for some parts of the questions, but inconsistent in doing so for all aspects of the questions.

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 an awareness of the wider cultural context
- demonstrated a thorough understanding of the ideas and values
- choose and discussed a wide range of relevant supporting evidence from the text in relation to the ideas and values
- answered all aspects of the questions in full.

OTHER COMMENTS

The texts 'Iliad', 'Odyssey' and 'Antigone' were among the most popular texts for this standard.

Candidates were given the option of choosing a different text for each question, but no one took up this option.

Some candidates chose to cover multiple examples from their chosen text, but struggled to explain the examples in sufficient depth.

The 'Planning' space provided is taken into account by the marker. There are instances where candidate's planning can help them to achieve, particularly if they run out of time when writing their answer.

91022 Demonstrate understanding of the significant 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:

- answered most aspects of each question
- were able to recall relevant facts and figures
- demonstrated a basic understanding of classical art work / building features.

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:

- answered only one question

- did not answer questions consistently
- presented rote-learned responses or pre-prepared essays that did not address 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:

- understood the question and answered all parts with some detail
- were commonly able to answer one question to a higher level than the other
- applied a range of knowledge in their responses.

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:

- used a high level of detail to support responses
- discussed both questions in detail and with confidence
- had a clear understanding of the art works / buildings discussed and applied these directly to the question
- provided focused and thorough responses.

OTHER COMMENTS

Many candidates disadvantaged their efforts by not addressing all parts of each question. Some candidates wrote responses to one question that would have been more suited to another question. Candidates did well were able to apply their knowledge of the art works / buildings back to the question appropriately.

91203 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:

- demonstrated a basic understanding of the historical figure chosen
- attempted some parts of each question
- provided basic explanations with little specific detail.

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 very little understanding of the question or concept on which the question was based
- did not demonstrate appropriate knowledge about the historical figure or context
- did not answer questions
- provided responses on a mythological figure rather than a historical one
- provided little or no supporting evidence

- answered one question using detail that would have been better suited to answer a different 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:

- answered both parts of each question
- understood the key aspects of the question and addressed each aspect specifically
- attempted to link one part of the question to the other
- demonstrated a detailed and accurate understanding of the figure and context
- provided accurate and relevant supporting evidence.

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 both parts of the question in depth and with a focused discussion of specific detail
- demonstrated perceptive understanding of all aspects of the questions
- demonstrated an accurate and thorough understanding of their chosen historical figure
- established links to the wider cultural contexts in connection to the chosen figure
- demonstrated insight, particularly when making links between the first and second parts of the questions
- provided a wide range of accurate and relevant supporting evidence.

OTHER COMMENTS

The figures studied were Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, Spartacus, Crassus, Augustus, Tiberius, Nero, Agrippina the Younger, and Socrates.

Candidates who discussed mythological character such as Achilles, Agamemnon and Oedipus did not achieve the standard as there was little actual evidence to confirm that these figures were historical as required by the standard.