National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

Latin Level 1

90862   **Translate adapted Latin text into English, demonstrating understanding**

90863   **Demonstrate understanding of adapted Latin text**

COMMENTARY

Although the cohort was smaller in 2012, the calibre of candidates appeared much higher than usual. Most candidates were able to show flair and perception in their translations. Candidates also appeared to be much better prepared for the grammar-based questions, and their performance in these questions was noticeably higher than usual.

STANDARD REPORTS

90862   Translate adapted Latin text into English, demonstrating understanding

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- checked uncertain vocabulary in the vocabulary list provided, e.g. *insula*, meaning 'a block of flats' rather than 'an island'; also *libellus* meaning 'little book' rather than just 'book'
- used natural English to express Latin phrases, e.g. 'was' for *surgere* rather than 'used to' or would'; likewise *poscerent* is not adequately translated by 'would demand'
- realised that the preposition *ab* can mean 'from' as well as 'by'
- did not add additional words which do not appear in the Latin text, but which significantly change the meaning, e.g. *quamquam is ipse effugit* does not equate to 'although he himself managed to escape', which would require an additional idea of *possum*
- translated the text accurately by keeping phrases of words together, rather than mixing subordinate clauses with main clauses
- accurately translated tenses, e.g. *festinaverunt* is perfect ('hurried'), not imperfect ('were hurrying').

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 translate using natural word order in English rather than being bound by the Latin word order, e.g. 'a certain poor citizen' rather than 'a citizen a certain poor man'
- did not account for every Latin word in the text when translating into English, i.e. did not check to see that no words had been missed
- neither recognised nor accurately translated comparative and superlative forms, e.g. *minimum*
- thought that *Minervae* was dative singular, not genitive
- gave alternative answers in their translations, e.g. 'were destroyed by fire(s)'.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- realised that *ii* was an alternate form of *ei,* from *is, ea, id,* and was the subject of the sentence
- knew that *Romae* was a noun in the genitive case, and not an adjective agreeing with *insulas*
- translated *dormiunt* as an imperfect in English, because it is in a *dum* ('while') construction
- were able to translate an ablative absolute with a past participle without using 'having been' in English.

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:

- expressed Latin phrases with natural idioms in English, e.g. *olim incendio paene mortuus est* 'once almost burned to death'
- correctly identified *trementi* as a dative singular present participle (dative after the verb *succurrere*, and agreeing with the pronoun *ei)*
- accurately identified the tense of the infinitive in a reported statement and realised that it reflected the tense of the verb in the original direct speech, and then rendered that tense appropriately into English, according to the tense of the verb in the main clause, e.g. 'they hear a story that the merchant *has* burnt', but 'they heard a story that the merchant *had* burnt'
- determined that the ablative absolute phrase *hoc ipso facile servato* was concessive, and best translated by 'although'.

90863 Demonstrate understanding of adapted Latin text

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- recognised plural forms of nouns and verbs, and expressed them as plurals in their answers
- recognised forms of comparison, e.g. comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs
- recognised active and passive forms of verbs and translated them appropriately
- did not assume that every *ut* or *ne* introduced a purpose clause, to the exclusion of reported commands and consecutive (result) clauses
- knew that *hostis* in the phrase *hostis magnae peritiae* was nominative, in apposition to *Iugurtha*, rather than genitive
- realised that *se* (a reflexive pronoun) inside a reported statement reflects back to the subject of the main clause
- recognised the form *relatis* as coming from the irregular verb *refero, referre, retuli, relatum*, to report, bring back news of.

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 look unfamiliar words up in the vocabulary list provided, but guessed what they meant
- did not identify correctly tenses of verbs and translate them appropriately
- did not try to make sense of the Latin text by following the Latin word order, but identified the subject, verb and object and other case functions by looking at the word-endings
- did not recognise deponent verbs, and translated them with a passive meaning rather than active.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- gave full details in their answers, including adverbs, time phrases and adjectives
- did not make up their own answers according to what they thought could be the case in the text, but instead looked for an explanation or fact provided in the text itself
- had a full knowledge of the syntactical constructions which they had studied throughout the year, and were able to identify correctly constructions appearing in the text
- recognised *territurum esse* as being a future infinitive, reflecting the tense of the original hope in the direct speech
- correctly identified *cum* as a conjunction meaning "when" rather than a preposition followed by the ablative case, even though the word following *cum (nocte)* happened to be in the ablative case (an ablative of time when, with no preposition)
- remembered that towns, cities and small islands take no place prepositions in Latin, e.g. the ablative *Numidia* meaning "from Numidia".

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:

- identified and explained correctly grammatical features in the text, applying their knowledge of grammatical terms, such as mood, tense, voice, person, adverb, etc.
- realised that the subjunctive mood in Latin is found in certain syntactical constructions, rather than being used merely to classify an action as being vague, uncertain or indecisive
- translated Latin words into English when directed to do so
- could recognise a gerundive and correctly translate it into English (some candidates were even able to render an English translation in the active voice – an impressive feat at this level)
- correctly translated an impersonal passive gerundive of an intransitive verb *vobis decedendum est.*