

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

Classical Studies Level 2

- 91200 Examine ideas and values of the classical world**
- 91201 Examine the significance of features of work(s) of art in the classical world**
- 91203 Examine socio-political life in the classical world**

COMMENTARY

In the 2012 examination, candidates were expected to respond to one of four questions in each achievement standard. They were advised to answer using extended paragraphs and where appropriate, bullet points and to support their answers with relevant primary evidence. For AS 91201 they were provided with a resource booklet and they were advised to either use the resources in this booklet for their evidence or to draw from prior knowledge.

Successful candidates had prepared thoroughly for the external examination; they also focused on the areas given in the assessment specifications and chose questions that best suited their learning. They made good use of the space provided for planning, managed their time effectively and went on to write with perception. Their answers were mostly written in extended paragraphs that were clearly linked to their question, showed depth of knowledge and understanding and included well-explained primary evidence.

Issues arose for candidates who prepared limited content based around one small topic or only one area given in the assessment specification, and then did not get the question they were hoping for. Some candidates tried to force the content that they had learned into questions that were inappropriate, making their responses inaccurate. Some candidates chose to essentially write their own question and ultimately they were unable to gain credit.

Similarly, candidates who did not approach each bullet point systematically often failed to respond to all parts of a question and therefore did not achieve or did not earn top grades. It is therefore advisable to follow the structure of a question. Candidates who wrote lengthy introductions and conclusions wasted their time as they are not required to write in the essay format.

It is therefore important for candidates to remember that they must:

- read every bit of the question carefully and focus on the key words and key terms
- take note of the footnotes provided by the examiner
- think about the question and plan their approach
- address each bullet point in turn
- write detailed answers and show individual thought and insight
- provide supporting evidence and explain it in detail
- use technical terms and Greek/Latin words confidently.

91200 Examine 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 the idea(s) or value(s) being discussed
- described where this value was seen in the text using general example(s)
- focused their answer on the first 1-2 bullet points of the question
- had some knowledge of their chosen text, shown in the use of general examples
- addressed the idea(s) or value(s) in the context of a modern society, rather than the society which produced their chosen text.

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 show good knowledge of their chosen text
- retold parts of the text without addressing the question
- did not understand the idea(s) or value(s)
- did not draw conclusions
- did not read the question correctly or respond to it directly.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- explained the idea(s) or value(s) in some detail
- dealt with all parts of the question
- showed clear evidence of where the idea(s) or value(s) was evident in the text
- was able to draw some conclusions about the importance of the idea(s) or value(s) in the society that produced their chosen text
- did not make perceptive comments or conclusions about the idea(s) or value(s) they discussed.

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:

- responded to all parts of the question in detail
- showed detailed (by depth or breadth) knowledge of their chosen text by use of well-chosen evidence
- gave developed conclusions about the importance of the role or value in the society that produced their chosen text
- made perceptive statements and/or drew perceptive conclusions about the idea(s) or value(s)
- showed knowledge of the idea(s) or value(s) in a context outside of the text
- understood the medium of their chosen text (i.e. Homeric oral tradition or Athenian 5th century theatre).

91201 Examine 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:

- chose the most appropriate question for the art work(s) they were writing on
- gave simple conclusions
- showed some understanding of the work(s) chosen
- used some primary evidence to support their answers

- may not have answered all parts of the 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:
- misinterpreted the question
- described what was in the resource booklet with no details, such as the names of the people involved
- provided limited conclusions or none at all
- demonstrated a lack of knowledge of their chosen art work
- selected an inappropriate art work for the question they chose to answer.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- attempted all parts of the question, although some parts were covered in greater detail than others
- justified their statements with specifically relevant primary evidence
- gave detailed conclusions
- tailored their information to the question asked.

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 perceptive insight into the society (Greek or Roman) of the classical world
- drew conclusions which showed this insight
- responded to all parts of the question, gave detailed explanations and consistently used primary evidence from their chosen art work(s) to support these explanations.

91203 Examine socio-political life in the classical world

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- identified the relationships between individuals, society and the government
- provided limited primary sources or tended to use only terms as primary sources
- missed one part of the question completely
- answered some parts of the question correctly
- demonstrated a general understanding, without providing specific detail
- chose to use topics not well suited to the chosen question
- provided some relevant detail
- wrote everything they knew and did not focus on the key aspects of the question
- included extraneous and/or irrelevant information

- provided limited or basic conclusions, showing the relationship between individuals, society and government
- discussed some areas in depth that were not entirely relevant to the question
- provided lists with little analysis or explanation
- structured their response according to the bullet points
- sometimes clearly linked information to the 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:

- provided little or no primary sources
- was too general their response
- did not answer the question
- wrote their own answer to their own question
- responses were vague and provided little or no explanation
- did not provide enough information to show which society they were referring to
- selected an inappropriate concept for the question they chose to answer
- misunderstood the question
- included too much extraneous and/or irrelevant material at the expense of answering the question correctly
- wrote responses that contained too many factual errors
- wrote a pre-prepared response that did not fit the question properly
- confused Greek and Roman societies
- provided inappropriate comparisons or personal opinions rather than factual information
- missed too many parts of the question
- did not link the information in their response to the question
- did not provide sufficient explanation to demonstrate their understanding
- could or did not explain the relationships between individuals, society and government.

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 question
- provided a detailed answer, but did not consistently sustain the depth of detail throughout the response, especially in the developed conclusions
- provided primary sources in the majority of their response
- had relevant supporting evidence, e.g. correct terminology, names, dates, etc.
- provided some analysis
- made their responses clear and easy to read and find information, often using the structure of the question to shape their response
- clearly linked the information provided in their response to the question
- provided sound conclusions

- used analysis, examining the relationships between individuals, society and government.

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:

- had a consistently detailed response
- provided specific, targeted examples, using correct terminology
- provided perceptive explanations or analysis
- identified and examined a range of attitudes or viewpoints
- showed insight into and an awareness of the classical world and its wider context and were able to provide an articulate explanation or analysis of the context
- consistently provided relevant evidence, e.g. names, dates, places
- answered all parts of the question correctly, effectively and in detail
- provided a focussed and well-structured response that was easy to read
- avoided providing irrelevant or extraneous information
- explained the relevance of the primary sources used, where appropriate
- made a point using detailed and relevant supporting evidence and explained them in detail
- integrated the evidence well into their response and
- had a range of primary source evidence.