2025 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Latin
Level:	3
Achievement standard(s):	91506, 91507

General commentary

The two achievement standards involved translating authentic Latin text into English, demonstrating understanding and analysing authentic Latin text, demonstrating understanding.

It was pleasing to see the vast majority of candidates attempt both standards in full. While the overall number of candidates at this level was down again on previous years, the ability of these candidates to produce accurate translation and effective analysis continued to be of a consistently high standard.

Candidates who checked their translations thoroughly for avoidable errors, such as confusing plural and singular and omitting minor words, were usually more successful.

Candidates should be aware that answering all parts of the question for the analysis standard maximises their chances of attaining a higher grade. The correlation between candidates with omissions and lower grades was strong.

High-performing candidates translated idiomatically and flexibly, with a strong command of the required grammar and word endings. In the analysis standard, they were strong in several different parts of the question, particularly grammar, scansion, and language techniques.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91506: Translate authentic Latin text into English demonstrating understanding

Assessment

The range of syntax within the passage (gerundives, participles, and key subordinate clauses) offered a true and varied test of the grammatical requirements at this level and allowed candidates to showcase their idiomatic skills.

This passage for translation contained a variety of straightforward and more challenging clauses. This gave candidates enough time to produce an accurate and idiomatic translation, provided they left space to address challenging sections after working through the more straightforward clauses and sentences, in order to grasp the basic meaning of the overall passage.

Commentary

Accuracy continues to improve, and errors continue to reduce. Candidates need to be aware that at Level 3, idiomatic renderings of some grammatical constructions, such as ablative absolutes, gerunds, and indirect statements, are required for an Excellence grade. An overly literal translation runs the risk of not demonstrating that the candidate understands which construction is being used.

It is important that candidates consult the vocabulary booklet, even with words they know, because the word may be glossed with a meaning very specific to the passage. Furthermore, a significant amount of important grammatical information is given in addition to the words' meanings, which is vital for attaining a top grade.

High-performing candidates translated idiomatically and flexibly, with a strong command of the required grammar and word endings

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- showed a basic understanding of the meaning of the text
- used the vocabulary booklet accurately some of the time
- demonstrated understanding of some of the grammar and syntax of the text
- recognised deponent verbs, such as *vagari*, and translated them accurately
- translated connecting relatives, such as *quod flumen*, idiomatically.

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

- communicated most of the meaning and detail of the text
- showed understanding of most of the grammar and syntax of the text
- used the vocabulary booklet effectively most of the time
- translated ablative absolutes, such as *his rebus cognitis*, accurately
- identified and translated passive infinitives, such as *transiri*, accurately.

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

- used the vocabulary list to identify not only the meaning of a word but also part of speech and gender
- communicated the meaning and detail of the text accurately and idiomatically
- made few errors
- recognised and translated gerunds, such as *praedandi vastandique causa*, idiomatically
- identified and translated result clauses and indirect statements effectively.

Achievement standard 91507: Analyse authentic Latin text demonstrating understanding

Assessment

The passage of poetry followed a coherent narrative arc, which enabled the basic meaning of the passage to be accessible to most candidates. The passage included some challenging word order, contractions, and unusual vocabulary, which is typical of a passage of Latin poetry.

There was an increase in the number of candidates attempting, and gaining, top grades for the scansion and grammar parts of the question, which usually prove to be the most challenging and most commonly omitted.

Commentary

Candidates who included as much detail as possible in their responses fared better. This was especially true for responses to the first three parts of the question. Candidates should remember that, when asked to provide Latin quotations from the text (with correct English translations) in support of their answer, this is essential if they are to gain an Excellence grade.

For the final part of the question, requiring analysis of language and other literary techniques, explanations of relevant examples needed to do more than simply state what the definition of the particular technique was. Furthermore, candidates are reminded that material should not be repeated from other answers. Answering all parts of the question for the analysis standard maximises their chances of attaining a higher grade.

Grade awarding

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

- answered most parts of the questions
- displayed understanding of linguistics features and poetic devices
- analysed the effect of the scansion, even if some of the scansion itself was incorrect
- showed understanding of much of the content, although sometimes missing the details.

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

- made full use of the information in the vocabulary list
- quoted in Latin consistently and accurately when necessary
- answered all parts of all questions
- identified a wide range of linguistic features and poetic devices and produced a perceptive analysis
- analysed scansion and grammar questions to a high degree of accuracy.