

CLASSICAL GREEK AND LATIN

Overall grade boundaries

Grade:	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range:	0 - 7	8 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 28	29 - 36

The range and suitability of the work submitted

A wide range of essays was submitted this session. In order to improve their chances of producing a good essay, candidates should choose a topic that is worthy of investigation. The use of secondary sources is a must in any research essay: it is far from possible to develop an argument if there is not further investigation on the topic of choice. The candidates should avoid speculations and generalizations.

Candidate performance against each criterion

Criterion A: research question

The research question must be clearly and precisely focused. When the research question is too broad in scope or not challenging the research question will not be precisely focused. A topic which requires no further research or requires an essentially narrative or descriptive approach is not suitable for an extended essay. The title should provide a clear indication of the focus of the essay.

Criterion B: introduction

Some candidates did not explain the significance of the topic and they failed to explain how the research topic related to existing knowledge on the topic. This could be verified in the bibliography: some essays did not list secondary sources on the topic being analyzed.

Criterion C: investigation

This criterion is linked to Criterion B. The investigation should really be an investigation: the candidate should investigate the existing knowledge on the topic and analyze the reliability of the sources. The essay should show evidence of substantial background reading and an awareness of the major historical and cultural features at work in this setting. The candidate should avoid collecting material that is irrelevant to the research question.

Criterion D: knowledge and understanding of the topic studied

The research topic and the sources used must be relevant. The candidate should avoid giving information that is not relevant to the topic or that is already common knowledge on the topic being analyzed.

Criterion E: reasoned argument

The key phrase here is “developing an argument”. Candidates must avoid descriptive or narrative approaches to the research question.

Criterion F: application of analytical and evaluative skills

The key phrase here is “argue a case”. Sometimes the candidates offer sufficient descriptive material but do not attempt a critical analysis.

Criterion G: use of language

Candidate must avoid generalizations or statements that are either vague or unsupported. The candidate should avoid expressing personal views.

Criterion H: conclusion

Consistency is the key to success in this section of the essay.

Criterion I: formal presentation

Bibliography must be listed in a standard way.