

LATIN

Paper 8282/01 & 02

Language and
Literature

General comments

This year saw a pleasing increase in the entry, from twenty to twenty-eight candidates, from two Centres. Just as was the case last year, the standard was very high, in both Centres equally. The Moderator was impressed by the ability of most candidates to translate unseen literature with a high degree of accuracy and to respond with sensitivity and appreciation to the prescribed literature.

The two question papers were again demanding but fair. On Paper 1 a number of candidates ignored the instruction to write their translations on alternate lines. Candidates should be reminded that they answer on two out of the three sections on this paper. In the rare cases where candidates attempt all three sections they may be credited for only two of them.

The marking of both papers was as ever accurate and generally clear.

Comments on specific papers

Paper 1 Language

This paper offered a choice of two sections out of three: a prose unseen, a verse unseen and a grammar section. The performance was generally even across all three sections, showing that candidates had been thoroughly prepared for all parts of the paper.

The best translations were almost flawless, showing a remarkable grasp of language and literary idiom. Most of those who attempted **Section C** showed an astonishingly thorough knowledge of even the more arcane rules of Latin syntax. Even the weaker candidates here, who made many elementary errors in the formation of verbs, handled many complexities with commendable accuracy.

Paper 2 Literature

This year the grammar alternatives were not so much more popular than the extended literary questions. Those who attempted the latter showed a highly attuned appreciation of literary style. The weaker candidates who chose the grammar alternatives generally struggled to make accurate identifications.

Translations were in most scripts almost word-perfect, proving a real strength. Several weaker candidates achieved high marks overall by virtue of their translations. Almost all candidates showed a thorough knowledge of the content of the texts, though some contextual references were less well known. Scansion was mostly well done and analysis of the rhythmical effects was mostly sound.

Conclusion

Congratulations are in order once again this year to all concerned in a highly successful assessment. The Moderator continues to be impressed by the knowledge that the study of Latin in New Zealand is being maintained at so impressive a standard.