

LATIN

Paper 8282/01

Language

General Comments

This year twenty candidates from three Centres took this examination, the majority of whom were from one Centre. The standard was once again remarkably high, with a significant number of candidates consistently achieving a most creditable level of linguistic and literary knowledge and skill.

Both Question Papers were demanding but fair and provided an appropriately broad coverage of the language and literature.

A substantial proportion of the candidates ignored the instruction to write translations on alternate lines. This suggests that this practice was not made the norm during practice translations done in preparation for the examination.

The marking of both papers was generally clear and accurate.

Paper 1 (Language)

Candidates choose two sections out of three on this paper: a prose unseen, a verse unseen and a grammar section. Candidates at this session did particularly well on the third, grammar section. Those who attempted the verse translation generally found it more demanding than the prose.

The standard of the best candidates was superb: their grasp of vocabulary, grammar and syntax extended well beyond that normally required or expected at this level.

There were a few common errors noted in **Section A**: *me vivo, utriusque, in ... partem* (which often lost its link to *deiecit*), *gradus*, the link between *in curiam* and the verb, the link between *regis* and *apparitorum*.

Paper 2 (Literature)

The grammar alternatives were a good deal more popular than the extended literary questions; of the latter only the one in the second Virgil question was at all common.

Translations were in most scripts almost word-perfect. Almost all candidates showed a thorough knowledge of the content of the texts, including contextual references. Scansion was mostly well done although analysis of the rhythmical effects was by contrast rarely done well.

Conclusion

Congratulations are once again extended, both to the Examiners who operated another successful assessment, and to the Centres for the excellent preparation of their candidates.