

One candidate inexplicably omitted a full line of Pliny in his translation. It is very often the strong candidates who should be warned against negligence: too much confidence may cause complacency! Bonus marks are awarded for various reasons, but especially for a natural, logical and idiomatic translation from Latin.

The most common mistakes in this paper were the following:

### Caesar

A disappointing 3 candidates answered this question. One candidate received a very high mark while the other two candidates' poor ability in translation was confirmed by the translation of the second passage. It is therefore not possible to point out general mistakes.

### Cicero

Vocabulary which was found problematic included the following: *amisisset, vestris*, the future tense in *esse perituram, frangerer animo propter vitae cupiditatem, florem nobilitatis ac iuventutis, quamvis*.

### Pliny

All the candidates but one answered this question! *Tamquam tuis haesit* was difficult, probably because learners did not know (or recognise) the meaning of the words. Candidates were allowed some latitude in the translation of the sentence *Remitte aliquid.... indulgentiae tuae. Flevit* proved to be unknown to many, as well as *quia* and *precibus*.

## LATIN HG ESSAYS

The biggest disappointment in this section of the work arises from the fact that practically the same advice is repeated almost yearly.

It is advised that the teacher compile a check-list of all the tips and advice and criticism that have been passed on in the past years and hand it to the learners before they start their essays.

Please note the following:

1. Reference to sources should be made within the text for opinions obtained from sources, to illustrate statements.
2. Integrate quotes from primary sources into the text to illustrate something.
3. Do not use more Internet sources than books as reference.  
The access date of Internet sources need not be given, only the date of the most recent update.
4. Introductions and conclusions are not optional. The first and final chapters should be headed as "Introduction" and "Conclusion" to force a candidate to state his argument for the essay, and to make his final comments.

5. Unfortunately there were many incorrect bibliographies again this year, and the same mistakes were repeated. As was requested last year, please teach the candidates to follow the Harvard system suggested in the guidelines since 1985:

- The place of publication must be provided before the publisher, e.g. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
- When an author is the translator of a source, it must be thus indicated. Translated sources are listed under the translator, e.g. Radice, B. (transl.)
- Date of publication is placed straight after author/translator's name. No brackets. Use a fullstop after the date. The place of publication precedes the publisher, separated by colon. e.g. Radice, B. (transl.) 1963.
- Note the punctuation suggested in the guidelines.
- Note the method used for references within text (and note the punctuation), e.g. "(Grant 1978: 101) **or** Grant (1978:101) has the following comments....."
- Avoid footnotes instead of notes within the text. It is cumbersome and old-fashioned. Please note punctuation for such references in the text, e.g. (Ridd 1993:5) (no colon as used after the author's surname, only between the year and page. No p. for page in front of the page number)

6. Do not acknowledge a source for a straightforward facts like "Cicero was consul in 63BC". Reference to a source should illustrate some statement made in the text.

7. The inclusion of a map can be regarded as relevant, but not necessarily illustrative. Rather make specific reference to the map in the text, or highlight places referred to in the text to make it more functional and "illustrative".

8. If at all possible, make a serious effort to refer to primary sources, even for the essays on general topics.

9. All books (even dictionaries!) must be listed alphabetically under the surname of the writer/translator/editor/compiler. ISBN numbers are not necessary.

10. Candidates must refer to each source in the bibliography in the text of the essay itself, using the Harvard method.

11. General remarks from the moderator:

It is clear that Latin no longer attracts many students, and that they are also no longer necessarily the very bright ones. It is also clear that the average student has much to gain by being introduced to academic research methods in doing these projects.