

Questions & Answers

Changes to assessment in Advanced Higher Latin

Question paper 1 – Literary Appreciation

Why has the time for completion for literary appreciation been increased?

Engagement with teachers showed no need to change the question paper, but it did show that candidates would benefit from more time to complete the 20 mark, extended response question.

Why has the specimen question paper not changed for literary appreciation, but the marking instructions have?

SQA keeps all qualifications under review as part of its commitment to continuous quality improvement. This includes continued refinement of our approach to marking instructions. This is to ensure fairness and consistency of marking for candidates, and clarity of marking instructions for markers. As no change is needed for the literary appreciation question paper, we have retained and re-published the existing specimen question paper with refined marking instructions. These also reflect plain English principles to which SQA is committed for all documentation.

Is there any plan to reduce the amount of prescribed text to be covered? There seems to be a lot to get through.

SQA reviews all National Qualifications as part of continuous improvement. At present, there is no plan to reduce the prescribed text.

Question Paper 2 – Translating

What is the impact on workload for candidates and teachers of a longer translating question paper?

The skills, knowledge and understanding for prose and verse translating remain the same and must be learned in the same way. However, teachers and candidates do not have to spend time on unit assessment for verse translating or prose translating.

Candidates should be given opportunities to practise answering unseen verse and prose translating texts. These should be of the same length and complexity as the examples within the specimen question paper.

Will having prose and verse translating in the question paper disadvantage some candidates?

No. Verse translating is an integral part of the Advanced Higher course, which previously was assessed in the translating unit. The removal of units and unit assessment means that we need to maintain the integrity of the course by including verse translating in the question paper. The level of challenge remains the same overall for candidates.

Why does the prose translating passage in the question paper have fewer marks and blocks than previously?

Strengthening the course assessment for translating, by including verse translating, in the question paper required a review of the total number of marks and blocks. The blocks are roughly the same level of challenge in prose and verse translating and usually contain only one essential idea. In addition, we had to increase the total marks for translating and change the balance of marks across the components to make them equal.

Why have the marking instructions for the project-dissertation changed when the requirements for the project-dissertation have not?

SQA keeps all qualifications under review as part of its commitment to continuous quality improvement. This includes continued refinement of our approach to marking instructions. This is to ensure fairness and consistency of marking for candidates and clarity of marking instructions for markers.

The specific marking instructions for the project dissertation have been slightly revised to ensure clarity and consistency in marking of the dissertations.