

## **Classics (3-year) admissions assessment**

In 2022 the assessment (taken by all 3-year candidates who have been shortlisted for interview) will be taken on-line via the University's assessment Moodle platform. Candidates may take the assessment at their home or school – whichever environment feels the most comfortable to them and has the most reliable internet connection. The assessment will not be invigilated.

The Classics (3-year) Admissions Assessment consists of *\*either\** an unseen passage of Latin for translation into English, *\*or\** an unseen passage of Greek for translation into English.

Candidates should translate the Latin passage, unless they have taken, or are taking, A level Greek or the equivalent *\*but not Latin\**, in which case they should translate the Greek passage.

This will be an 'open-book' test, and candidates are permitted to use either a physical dictionary, or an on-line dictionary, and a grammar. They may not however use other aids. Candidates are welcome to use their own physical dictionary or the on-line dictionary they prefer. Otherwise, we would recommend the following - <https://logeion.uchicago.edu/> - for both Latin and Greek.

The passages set may be either verse or prose. Since the test is an 'open-book' one, glosses (i.e. translations of less frequently found words) will not routinely be provided, but guidance on occasional words or phrases may be.

Last year's papers are pasted below.

**Please also consult the marking scheme at the end of this document.**

Candidates have **60 minutes** to complete the assessment; an additional 30 minutes is provided to allow them to download the assessment paper and upload their completed response.

Candidates are asked to write their answer **by hand**, and to retain a copy of their response as they may be asked to discuss it in interview.

Full details of the arrangements for the tests will be provided to candidates by the College assessing their application; please contact the relevant admissions office if you have any queries about these.

## At-interview assessment: Classics (3-year course)

This is an 'open book' test: that means that you are permitted to use a dictionary, either an online one, or a physical copy, and a grammar. But please do not use any other aids.

Answer one question. You should translate the Latin passage (question 1) unless you have taken, or are taking, A-level Greek or the equivalent \*but not Latin\* in which case you should translate the Greek passage (question 2).

### 1. Translate into English:

#### *Persephone*

*This poem tells how the earth responds in spring and relates it to the story of Persephone.*

tempus adest verum: renovat Natura colores

nudasque vestit arbores luxuriante coma.

pulsa est acris hiemps, pulsa est vis frigoris ingens;

nec impeditur aspera flumen iners glacie.

nidificant volucres; agnus petit ubera matris

distenta laetus; sedula suave susurrat apis.

Persephonen violas et lilia pulchra legentem

in foeda saevus abstulit Tartara Dis pavidam,

quae fieret coniunx orbataque lumine sedem

teneret inlaetabilem cum domino domina.

nusquam spes aderat, sed opem Pater ipse ferebat:

“cum matre menses sex ages,” inquit, “et in tenebris

Tartareis totidem”. placuit sors aequa Tonantis;

maternus excidit dolor, Ditis et ira trucis.

Pater = Jupiter

(NB the poem is in the Archilochian metre, as used by the Roman poet Horace. In translating the passage, candidates are not expected to have any knowledge of that metre.)

## 2. Translate into English:

***Imagine a trip to ancient Athens! Think of the art we would see and the poetry we would hear!***

φέρε γάρ, ἐπὶ τὴν πόλιν ἐκείνην τὴν μεγάλην ὅσον φροντίδος γ' ἔνεκα μεταβῶμεν· καὶ δὴ  
θῶμεν ὅτι τὰς πύλας εἰσερχόμεθα μέγιστον δυναμένης αὐτῆς καὶ ἀκμαζούσης· καὶ ὄχλος μὲν  
περὶ στοάν τινα συναγείρεται, τὸ ἱερὸν ἅπαντες μεθ' ἡδονῆς θεώμενοι, ἅτε τοῦ Φειδίου  
τάγαλματα καθιδρύοντος· εἰς δ' ὁδὸν ἑτέραν τρεπόμενοι ῥαψῶδὸν ὀρῶμεν ἔπη λέγοντα·  
κύκλω δ' ὠθοῦνται ἄνδρες καὶ γυναῖκες καὶ παιδιά· κατὰ δὲ τῶν παρεῖων δάκρυα καταρρεῖ  
αὐτοῖς, ἔστηκε δὲ τὰ ὄμματα καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα κατέχουσι· τὸν γὰρ Πρίαμον λέγει ὅπως πρὸς  
τοὺς πόδας καταπεσὼν τῷ Ἀχιλλεῖ τὰς χεῖρας ἔκυσε

‘δεινάς, ἀνδροφόνους, αἳ οἱ πολέας κτάνον υἷας’.

φροντίς, -ίδος, ἦ: suggested translation: 'imagination'

μεταβῶμεν < μεταβαίνω

**At-interview assessment: Classics (3-year course)**

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**Answer one question. You should translate the Latin passage (question 1) unless you have taken, or are taking, A-level Greek or the equivalent \*but not Latin\* in which case you should translate the Greek passage (question 2).**

**1. Translate into English:**

***The clock speaks***

***A clock addresses a boy and tells him a few things about himself and about the effects which the passage of time will have on him.***

laete puer, viridis quaerens certamina campi,  
    suspice me; tristi seria voce loquor.  
ridebis merito: nam sum sine corpore voltus,  
    et mihi sunt, nasum qua decet esse, manus.  
sed simul ac sonui, tota trepidatur in urbe;  
    incipient lenti tum properare pedes.  
sta, puer; admonitus audi; maturior ibis  
    circum doctores; oderis ipse moras.  
acrior e lecto surges, aderisque vocato  
    nomine, nec mensam serus adire voles.  
sic tibi – quid rides? – furtim sapientia crescet;  
    sic omni semper tempore promptus eris.  
hos doctus numeros, haec doctus tempora, disces  
    non ullo numeris tempore deesse tuis.

## 2. Translate into English:

*Some enthusiastic students ask an enthusiastic teacher to help them improve their Attic Greek and learn how to make poetry.*

[μαθηταί] ὦ χαῖρε.

[διδάσκαλος] καὶ ὑμεῖς χαίρετ', ὦ νεανίαι· ὑμᾶς 'χαῖρε' λέγοντας Ἀττικῶς ἐπήνεσα· βούλεσθε ἄρα ἅττα διαλεγώμεθα Ἀττικῶς;

[μαθηταί] ἥδιστα ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἂν δυναίμεθα.

[διδάσκαλος] οὐ δεῖ φοβεῖσθαι· ῥᾶδιον πειρωμένῳ συνετοῖσι φωνεῖν συνετά, καὶ ἐὰν τις ᾗ ξένος.

[μαθηταί] ἀλλ' ἄρα σὺ καὶ διδάξαι ἡμᾶς δύνασαι ἐμμέτρως λαλεῖν;

[διδάσκαλος] ἔγωγε· φησὶ γὰρ τις τῶν σοφῶν ὅτι ἀπλῶς ἱαμβός ἐσθ' ὁ τῶν πολλῶν λόγος καὶ φθέγγεταιί τις ἀγνοῶν ἱαμβικά. ἀλλὰ πρῶτόν γε πειρώμεθα μέτρον ἀφέντες ψιλῶ λόγῳ χρῆσθαι. ἐγὼ μὲν ἐρωτήσω, σὺ δὲ ἀποκρίνου καὶ ὅπως λαλήσεις Ἑλληνιστί.

## **Marking Scheme for the Three-Year Course Admissions Assessment (2022)**

[9-10] Excellent understanding of the passage. Few, if any, mistakes in accident/syntax. Consistently successful improvements on a literal translation. Meaning conveyed stylishly and fluently throughout.

[7-8] Good understanding of the passage. Some mistakes in accident/syntax, but not significant enough to prevent basic comprehension. Some improvements on a literal translation and good overall fluency of English.

[5-6] Incomplete understanding of the passage. Several mistakes in accident/syntax with some affecting comprehension in crucial places. Translation mostly literal and lacking fluency of English.

[3-4] Limited understanding of the passage. Mistakes in accident/syntax throughout, serious and numerous enough to prevent accurate comprehension in most places.

[1-2] Little or no understanding of the passage. Only shows isolated knowledge of accident/syntax.