

'Guided Essay' Guidelines

Papers 5 and 6 (Greek and Latin Literature) at IB feature essay questions that require candidates to refer to one or two passages in their answers. The passages are given in the original if the passage comes from an A-Schedule text and in the original with translation if the passage comes from a B-Schedule text.

1. The main rationale behind this exercise is to require candidates to have read and engaged with all the A-Schedule texts in the original and B-Schedule texts in translation.
2. The marking will follow the criteria for essay papers as set out in the Undergraduate Handbook (pp. 18–19). The question, however, will make it clear in each case that the set passage(s) will need to be referred to as part of the answer. Answers that do not show understanding of and engagement with the given passage(s), therefore, fail to address the question fully. The passages are designed to help candidates by prompting thoughts focused on the texts, offering a starting point or an example of relevant material to quote in support.
3. How the set passage(s) are brought into play is up to each candidate – and will inevitably vary depending on question and passage(s). Questions may be thematic or focused on a particular text; passages may be long or short, although on average they are relatively short. The set passages are by no means the only passages from the text relevant to the question. This is essentially an essay question, and it is usually important to go beyond the passage(s) on the paper in analysis. All passages set should be discussed, but there is no requirement that they be treated to an equal extent in the answer.

The marking criteria for this exercise can be found at:

https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/pdfs/Undergradmarkingcriteria/at_download/file