

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question in the Catallus section of this course assessment component.

Question 1 (a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for identifying one of Trebatius' qualities:

- 'an excellent memory' (**1 mark**).

Question 1 (b)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they specified one piece of advice:

- 'to get out Britain as if he was in one of their chariots' (**1 mark**).

The reference to 'desirable qualities' was not precise enough to merit another mark.

Question 2 (a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they offered a developed explanation the metaphor.

- for *the assassination of Caesar compared to a feast* (**1 mark**).
- for *both are events in which many take part* (**1 mark**).
- for *to enjoy themselves*. (**1 mark**).

Question 2 (b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they identified and commented on one example of language use.

- Word choice – *viro optimo* 'most excellent man' (**1 mark**).
- Highlights continuing respect for Trebonius despite mistakes (**1 mark**).

Question 3 (a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for a developed discussion of Pliny's tone.

- Subservient tone – *domine*, 'master' (1 mark).
- Typically used by enslaved people (1 mark).

Question 3 (b)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because identified one of Pliny's concerns.

- Wondering if punishment should take account of age (1 mark).

Question 3 (c)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for arguing with reference to the text that Pliny would be reassured.

- Trajan emphasises that Christians should not be sought out (1 mark).
- Pliny receives the confirmation he was seeking (1 mark).

An additional point was needed for full marks.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they identified three uses of language and commented on two.

- for quoting and translating five comparative adjectives (1 mark).
- identifying a tricolon of comparatives (1 mark).
- for this emphasises the sheer amount of moral corruption. (1 mark).
- for quoting and translating the short sentence 'contra est'. (1 mark).
- for this highlights his shock at the difference between expectation and reality. (1 mark).

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** because they did not attempt the question.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** because they did not attempt the question.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** because they did not attempt the question.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they identified two relevant qualities.

- Her interest in literature (**1 mark**).
- Her frugality (**1 mark**).

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because their response was incomplete. Although they had some good ideas, they tended to refer to the texts in broad terms, without providing the specific details needed to root their argument in the textual evidence.

- Seneca's advice to avoid crowds because they cause violence (letter 12) still relevant today **(1 mark)**.
- Advice to making friends based on moral judgement still relevant **(1 mark)** because modern friendship tend to be based on shared interests **(1 mark)**
- Pliny's criticism of discrimination at dinner parties (letter 14) still important today **(1 mark)**.
- Sending greetings (letter 22) is similar to modern correspondence **(1 mark)**.

Structure

1 mark for an introduction that established the candidate's stance towards the question.