

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Question 18

The candidate was awarded the full **3 marks** available for correctly identifying the use of superlatives to emphasise her beauty, the comparison with Diana, and the description of Dido's crowd of followers.

Question 19 (a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for identifying:

- ◆ that the sky as a witness to the 'wedding' (**1 mark**)
- ◆ the nymphs as singing hymns (**1 mark**)
- ◆ the rain perhaps standing for the ceremonial purification (**1 mark**)

Question 19 (b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for identifying the darkness of the cave and the noise of the storm as dramatic but failing to develop the answer further.

Question 20

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for relating to the deliberative questions. The response does not focus on the immediate evidence of Aeneas' feelings but refers to the background narrative.

Question 21 (a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for correctly identifying Dido's fear of being attacked by her brother Pygmalion, taken as a captive bride by Iarbas, or attacked by the neighbouring kings.

Question 21 (b)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for correctly identifying that:

- ◆ women in the ancient world were sometimes subject to forced/ captive marriage (**1 mark**)
- ◆ women in positions of authority relied on diplomacy and agreement to maintain their position (**1 mark**)
- ◆ women had little recourse if they were abandoned by their husbands (**1 mark**)
- ◆ women were extremely vulnerable if they lacked a male patron or protector (**1 mark**)

Question 22 (a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for correctly identifying that Aeneas had not made any formal promises to Dido. The other point in the candidate's response, that Aeneas is motivated by his responsibilities to his people, is disallowed as it falls outside the text under consideration although it forms part of his overall argument.

Question 22 (b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this response. It is true that Aeneas had made no formal commitment to Dido. However, it is less convincing when Aeneas takes refuge in this kind of legalistic argument whilst ignoring his moral responsibilities.

Question 23

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for identifying that:

- ◆ Dido uses cold and harsh images of rocks and wind to emphasise the hardships she wishes for Aeneas (**1 mark**)
- ◆ the dismissive imperative, 'go', suggests her anger, despair and sense of betrayal (**1 mark**)
- ◆ she hopes he will drown at sea (**1 mark**)
- ◆ she promises to haunt him and take her vengeance beyond the grave (**1 mark**)

Question 24

The candidate was awarded **7 marks** for correctly identifying:

- ◆ Juno's resentment, and Virgil's word choice in expressing how deeply the resentment burned (**1 mark**)
- ◆ the simile of a deer shot by an arrow to describe Dido, which the candidate develops to include the idea of helplessness and pain (**1 mark**)
- ◆ Aeneas' vacillation and bewilderment after the visit of Mercury, and Dido's explosive anger at discovering his plans (**1 mark**)
- ◆ the ways in which Dido contemplates her hopeless future after being abandoned by Aeneas (**1 mark**)
- ◆ her contempt and anger towards him (**1 mark**)
- ◆ Aeneas shows an unrealistic indifference to Dido as he leaves (**1 mark**)
- ◆ Aeneas shows pity and remorse towards Dido but his attempts at reconciliation are rejected (**1 mark**)

In each case the candidate describes the situation and evaluates the effectiveness of the language.