

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 19

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because the response contained three valid factual pieces of information about ancient beliefs in the relationship between gods and humans:

- ♦ the gods had favoured people and cities
- ♦ the gods took sides in wars
- ♦ the gods could delay or disrupt the workings of Fate but Fate would always prevail

Question 20(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the response includes two accurate points, explaining the comparison:

- ♦ Dido is compared to the goddess Diana
- ♦ Like Diana, Dido has a large group of followers

Question 20(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** of a possible 3 because while the response includes a valid assessment of Dido's characteristics:

- ♦ Dido has a strong presence
- ♦ Dido is determined and confident

The response is vague and repeats information rather than providing three clear statements. A further mark could have been awarded if the candidate had made three distinct points.

Question 21

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** of a possible 3. There are two valid statements identifying events to take place in the future, but the remainder of the response does not refer to the future but the gravity of the events:

- ♦ Cupid is putting a spell on Dido
- ♦ the word *pesti*, plague, tells us it will be an ominous future

A further mark could have been gained by saying that Dido was ignorant of the future.

Question 22

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because the response successfully identifies instances of Dido's expressing anger and fear, and identifies the reasons for these emotions:

- ♦ she will not even mention his name (anger)
- ♦ she blames him for her suffering (anger)

- ♦ he has ruined her reputation (anger)
- ♦ she is afraid of Pygmalion and the Numidian princes

Question 23(a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. The response successfully identified two clear feelings experienced by Dido – pride in past achievements, and resentment about her current predicament – and was awarded a further mark in a holistic block review of implied emotions, such as regret.

Question 23(b)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. The response successfully identifies three ways in which Virgil uses language to enhance the effect of his writing – alliteration and the selection of graphic words - and shows how these techniques work in this extract. A further mark could have been obtained if the comment about the effect of *spumantem*, foaming, had been developed further.

Question 24(a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because the response successfully identifies three ways in which Virgil uses language to emphasise the sinister qualities of the Underworld:

- ♦ the Underworld is full of shadows
- ♦ the shadows hide things and create mystery and uncertainty
- ♦ the atmosphere is cold and dark

Question 24(b)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because the response makes four accurate statements about Roman beliefs in life in the Underworld, derived from information in the text:

- ♦ you stayed as you were when you died – ‘wound still raw’
- ♦ the dead could communicate with the living if they chose
- ♦ love can continue after death
- ♦ the souls of the dead became translucent

Question 25

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** of a possible 8. The response identified two principal sources of sympathy for Dido – her manipulation by the gods and her abandonment by Aeneas – and development of the reasons why these would lead a reader to being sympathetic:

- ♦ it was not her choice to fall in love
- ♦ Dido burns with love – her experience is almost physically painful
- ♦ she is reduced from an authoritative, confident and commanding figure to a pitiful victim
- ♦ she believes with some justification that Aeneas owes her some loyalty and commitment
- ♦ she is having her ‘marriage’ torn apart by the gods

Further marks could have been gained by identifying further points such as Dido's sense of regret for her own errors.