

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** having identified two valid viewpoints on the actions of Pyramus and Thisbe's parents, for example that on the one hand Pyramus and Thisbe were young and their parents knew best, and on the other that the parents should have respected their genuine love.

Question 10

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for identifying Thisbe as being brave and determined.

Question 11(a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** having identified one of the things that happened to the mulberry tree. A further mark could have been gained for more detail such as the blood splashing on the roots and berries.

Question 11(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**: there was a lot of blood, and the additional valid point that the place was crucial in the story as the setting for their meeting and the subsequent action.

Question 12

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** having stated that Thisbe is shocked and that she repeats Pyramus's name in desperation. Further marks might have been gained by identifying further actions in the narrative.

Question 13

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for identifying two valid features of ancient burial practice from the text. This question is essentially factual rather than subjective.

Question 14(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for correctly identifying the problem (uneven table) and the solution (piece of pottery).

Question 14(b)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** owing to a factual error.

Question 15(a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for identifying three examples of behaviour that might be considered 'good' or 'fair': Philemon had an equal relationship with Baucis (additional valid point)

Philemon was welcoming to strangers

Philemon was generous despite having few resources.

The candidate has confused Philemon and Baucis, wrongly identifying Philemon as the wife, but this error does not affect an assessment of the character's moral qualities.

Question 15(b)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**, correctly identifying the observation that by asking to die together (1) the couple showed they loved each other and could not live without each other (1) and they are content with their humble lot and with each other (1).

The candidate did not gain marks for saying that the couple were generous to strangers as this episode was in an earlier section. Candidates should ensure that they answer only on the section specified.

Question 16

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**, identifying poor or basic food, and the poor quality of housing. Stating that the surrounding residents were poverty-stricken is essentially repeating the main points.

Question 17

The candidate was awarded **8 marks**, having identified the following valid points: The attractiveness of the couple: 'most handsome...most desirable' (1)

The cottage of Baucis and Philemon transformed into a temple: 'columns took the place of pillars...marble pavement covered the ground.' (1)

Description of the lioness in Pyramus and Thisbe: large (1), dripping blood (1)

Description of Thisbe's reaction to Pyramus's death: pulling her hair, beating her breast (1), shouting Pyramus's name (1)

Description of the house of Baucis and Philemon: everything in the house is small, low ceiling and door frame, even the cooking pots are small (1)

Description of Pyramus's death: the picture of spraying blood gives a gruesome effect (1)