

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(a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for identifying that Dido was accompanied by a large crowd of followers. There is no discussion of Dido's appearance or demeanour which might have gained an additional mark.

Question 18 (b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** having identified the following points:

Dido is beautiful like Diana

Dido is admired by her followers like Diana

Question 19

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** having identified:

The sky was a witness (Roman weddings had a witness)

Juno was sponsor (as in a Roman wedding)

A further mark could have been gained by a stronger link between the text and the social and cultural context of the Roman world.

Question 20

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** having identified from the narrative that Aeneas was struck dumb (1), his hair stood on end (1), his voice stuck in his throat (1), he feels he must 'dare' to speak to Dido, implying fear (1).

Language techniques: deliberative questions (1) metaphor: 'burning' to leave.

Question 21

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for correctly identifying two fears harboured by Dido: that her brother Pygmalion will attack her (1) and that she will be taken as a captive bride (1).

Question 22

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**, correctly identifying that thinking of his son Ascanius made Aeneas realise he was cheating him of his destiny (1), and Mercury was bringing direct orders from Jupiter (1).

Question 23 (a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. The dead could maintain contact with the living (1); the souls of the dead went to the Underworld (1).

Question 23 (b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. The dead could maintain contact with the living (1); the souls of the dead went to the Underworld (1).

Question 23 (c)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. Dido will haunt Aeneas as a ghost (1); she wills that Aeneas should call upon her name when he is punished, which would be ironic (1). She compares herself indirectly to a Fury (1).

Question 24

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. She will die unavenged, without justice (1); She is resigned to dying and no longer wants to live (1); description of the gruesome death (1).

A further mark could have been gained by referring to Dido's reflections on her past life or the language techniques such as the unfulfilled conditional clauses that help to describe Dido's feelings of regret.

Question 25

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. Aeneas is compelled by duty to go to Italy against his will (1). Dido ends up feeling that death is her only option (1). She gave everything up to marry Aeneas and has lost everything from following her own impulses (1).

Further marks could have been gained by exploring the ways that Dido and Aeneas responded to the call of duty and the promptings of desire, and the influences propelling them, including the gods, and the conflict between their duty to their peoples and their obligations to each other.