

# 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 **2 marks** having correctly identified that Dido has a large retinue of followers and carries herself in a regal way (additional valid point, implying serenity, dignity).

## Question 18(b)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for identifying correctly that like Diana, Dido has a multitude of followers; Dido is beautiful like Diana; Dido stands out among her followers as Diana stands out – additional valid point.

## Question 19

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** having correctly identified Juno as matron of honour as in a Roman wedding; the Nymphs are calling out analogously to a Roman wedding hymn; the air/wind was the witness – witnesses required at a Roman ceremony.

## Question 20

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** for identifying the following literary features:

Word choice: *attonitus*, astonished, makes plain that Aeneas was amazed.

deliberative questions emphasising his anxiety

imagery: he was struck dumb;

imagery: burning with desire to leave

his hair bristled

Further possibilities included the use of expressions of dismay, for example *heu*; graphic present, lending a sense of urgency and immediacy; metre, dactylic, fast-moving, suggesting the rapid movement of Aeneas' thoughts

## Question 21

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** correctly identifying the threat of an attack from Pygmalion and the possibility of being taken as a captive bride as things that make Dido afraid for the future.

## Question 22

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** correctly identifying appearances of the ghost of Aeneas' father, meeting Mercury face to face, and the injustice Aeneas is doing to Ascanius as reasons for Aeneas' leaving Carthage.

## Question 23(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** identifying shipwreck and being pursued by Dido as aspects of punishment. The candidate also wrote: 'You will pay the penalty, wicked man' but this response did not attract a mark as essentially it was included in the question.

## Question 23(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for correctly stating that dead souls became ghosts and that ghosts could haunt people. These were beliefs held by Romans of Virgil's era.

## Question 23(c)

The candidate correctly identified *improbe*, wicked, as a dramatic word choice; her promise to haunt him sounds dramatic and portentous, and the sounds of the words in lines 1-3 *supplicia...scopulis*, sound like hissing, conveying Dido's anger and spite. The candidate was awarded **3 marks** but could have gained a further mark by identifying dramatic imagery or by developing one of the points above to show the dramatic effect more clearly.

## Question 24

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**, identifying the graphic and gruesome description of Dido's death, and gaining a further mark for the description of the blood, both of which descriptions are calculated to create horror and sympathy. The candidate also identifies Dido's sense of regret at the unfinished nature of her previous ambitions in building her city, and her recognition that the arrival of the Trojans was her undoing.

This candidate has demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the literary effect of the narrative.

## Question 25

The candidate was awarded **7 marks** for this extended response. correctly identifying what the characters believe is their duty, and the way in which Aeneas vacillates between duty and personal fulfilment: 'I seek Italy not of my own will.' He recognises and ultimately chooses to do his duty at the expense of his relationship with Dido.

We are also shown Aeneas clearly stating that if he had the choice he would have remained at Troy, and that having gone to Carthage he would have liked to remain in its 'sweet lands', but recognising the imperative of duty.

The candidate also identifies Dido's enthusiasm in following her duty to her citizens, 'pressing on with the work and her future kingdom.'

However the candidate could have given more assessment of Dido's situation and potentially gained a further mark.