

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Question 26 (a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for correctly identifying three features of the appearance of the volcanic cloud: it was shaped like a pine tree; it had a long trunk; it rose high in the sky.

Question 26 (b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for correctly identifying two reasons for the cloud's appearance:

The ash and dirt made the cloud look blotchy

The weight of ash made the cloud spread out.

A further mark could have been obtained for stating that the impetus of the volcanic blast was dissipated as the cloud rose.

Question 27

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** out of 6. The candidate has correctly identified a list of hazards, emphasised by the repetition of *et...etiam...et...et...*, and a block review of one mark was added for identifying Pliny's wish to act heroically. Other linguistic features identified did not help to describe Pliny's uncle's behaviour. Responses need to focus tightly on the requirements of the question.

Question 28

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for correctly identifying two potential sources of danger: the risk of access being blocked by ash or the roof collapsing.

Question 29(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for identifying two valid insights into Pliny's state of mind: he wishes to show off his erudition, and he wishes to emphasise that the destruction of Pompeii is as tragic as the destruction of Troy.

Question 29(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for identifying two changes to Pliny's behaviour: he became more aware of the tremors and became more concerned

about them instead of dismissing them as routine and decided that he had to take action.

Question 30(a)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**, identifying that the crowd was in search of leadership; they took comfort in acting the same as others; they had a herd mentality.

Question 30(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**, correctly identifying Pliny's attitude as being that the crowd are following blindly, and that he is of superior intelligence himself. A further mark could have been obtained by developing the description of Pliny's opinion.

Question 31

The candidate was awarded **0 marks**, having failed to identify any relevant features. Marks could have been gained by focusing on the correct part of the text.

Question 32

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for correctly identifying three aspects of the importance of family: relatives wished to wait for an absent family member; the son refused to abandon his mother; the mother was willing to die to save her son.

Question 33

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**. The candidate correctly stated that Pliny says he insisted on bringing his mother as evidence of his heroism. Pliny also tells us that he told the friend from Spain that he would not leave without his uncle. He portrays his uncle's demeanour as being calm in the face of danger in his conversation with Pomponianus, and he suggests that he himself has a calming influence on his mother.