

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

Question 5 (2019 question paper)

Explain what Source A tells us about the parts played by different groups within Athenian society. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they have given 'voting' as an explanation of 'political role'. Otherwise the candidate has, on the whole, paraphrased parts of the source without actually explaining any of the points made in the source.

Candidate 2

Question 9 (2019 question paper)

Describe a snack bar (thermopolium) and the services it provided. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have described one valid service available at a thermopolium and one detail about the place itself (some had private rooms). The candidate has taken time to comment on the number of thermopolia as evidence for their popularity. That, however, is irrelevant in the answer to a 'describe' question and belongs rather in the answer to an 'explain the reasons' or a 'to what extent' question.

Candidate 3

Question 7(a) (2019 question paper)

Describe a conflict in a classical text(s). (5 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they have put the conflict (Odysseus v Cicones) clearly in its context and described its various stages (cause, progress, result), keeping focused on the theme.

Question 7(b) (2019 question paper)

Explain what this tells us about conflict in the classical world. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they make three valid points of explanation about the theme (conflict) in the classical world, all of which arise from and build on the candidate's answer to question 7(a).

Question 7(c) (2019 question paper)

Do we still view conflict in the same way today? Give reasons for your answer. (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they make valid points of comparison about modern views about conflict which arise from and build on the candidate's answers to questions 7(a) and 7(b). The candidate more than answers the question.

Question 8(a) (2019 question paper)

Describe the heroic actions of a character or characters in a classical text(s). (5 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they have put the acts of heroism (Odysseus dealing with the Cyclops) clearly in their context and described them, keeping focused on the theme by constantly using the words 'heroic' and 'heroism'.

Question 8(b) (2019 question paper)

Explain what this tells us about heroism in the classical world compared to today. (5 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they have covered both the classical and modern worlds, referring to the acts of heroism described in their answer to question 8(a). Three (the maximum) valid points of explanation about the theme in the classical world have been made and two (the maximum) valid points of comparison about modern views about heroism have been made.

Candidate 4

Question 11 (2019 question paper)

To what extent was a visit to the amphitheatre more exciting and eventful than a visit to the theatre in Pompeii?

You should explain different aspects of a visit to the amphitheatre and the theatre and come to a reasoned conclusion. (8 marks)

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they reached a valid conclusion and gave a valid reason for it. In terms of knowledge and explanation, the candidate has covered executions, animal shows, (famous) gladiators and large crowds. However, the question requires aspects of a visit to the amphitheatre and a visit to the theatre to be analysed. The candidate has not referred to the theatre.

Candidate 5

Question 6 (2019 question paper)

Evaluate the usefulness of Source B for the study of the law courts in Athens in the 5th century BC.

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it or what it has missed out. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate says the source was written in the 'classical era', but the question specifically asks about the 5th century BC. The introduction gives a date in the 4th century BC, which would allow an evaluative comment to have been made. The candidate says the source is useful because it was written by Aeschines, an Athenian citizen, for a trial in Athens, but there is no evaluation, merely a restatement of the facts given in the introduction. The candidate does make a valid point about something the source omits and is awarded a mark for that.

Candidate 6

Question 1 (2019 question paper)

Describe a myth which shows what the classical Greeks thought their gods were like. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they describe an appropriate myth, showing good knowledge of it. They also make it clear that the myth described reveals something about the nature of the gods and has not been chosen at random.

Question 2 (2019 question paper)

Explain the reasons why classical Athens was a very good place for people to make a living. (6 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have only explained one reason ('there were so many potential jobs there'). The examples given, however, come from their study of the Pompeii section of the course, with the additional listing (without expansion) of farmers and potters. One mark has been awarded for the reason and 1 mark for the range of jobs, as commercial fulling and baking did go on in Athens, even if not set for study.

Candidate 7

Question 5 (2018 question paper)

Explain what Source A tells us about education in classical Athens.

You should identify what points about education are being made in the source and explain what they mean. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. The candidate makes three good points providing a quotation from the source and explaining its meaning with their knowledge. A fourth mark was not awarded for the comment on spelling as it did not interpret the meaning of the source clearly enough.

Question 6 (2018 question paper)

Evaluate the usefulness of Source B for the study of democracy in Athens in the 5th century BC.

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it or what it has missed out. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. The candidate has made three points about the source – when it was written, what it tells us and why it is not useful. However, the candidate makes the point that it isn't useful as it was written by Thucydides, but does not explain why and therefore cannot be awarded a fourth mark.

Question 12 (2018 question paper)

Compare the working conditions in a bakery in Pompeii with the working conditions in a bakery in the modern world.

You should identify similarities and differences between the working conditions in a bakery in Pompeii and in the modern world (4 marks).

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. This question is looking for a focus on working conditions and this candidate has drawn general comparisons between an ancient and modern bakery. Marks have been awarded for comments on getting up early in both settings and a difference in the use of slaves in an ancient Pompeian bakery.

Candidate 8

Question 2 (2018 question paper)

Explain the reasons why gods and religion were very important to the citizens of classical Athens. (6 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. The candidate has made two points about why the gods were important to the citizens of classical Athens and there is some development in the first point about wanting protection and offering animal sacrifices.

Question 3 (2018 question paper)

To what extent did men in classical Athens have better lives than women?

You should explain different aspects of the lives of men and women and come to a reasoned conclusion. (8 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. The candidate has provided four good points of knowledge which explain different aspects of the issue. However, no

conclusion has been presented or a reason for a conclusion.

Question 4 (2018 question paper)

Compare the duties and responsibilities of a citizen in classical Athens with the duties and responsibilities of a citizen in the modern world.

You should identify similarities and differences between the duties and responsibilities of a citizen in classical Athens and the duties and responsibilities of a citizen in the modern world. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. The candidate has presented two differences between the ancient and modern world, therefore scoring 2 marks. There was no attempt to draw a similarity on the subject matter.

Question 14 (2018 question paper)

Evaluate the usefulness Source B for describing the worship of gods in Pompeii.

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it or what it has missed out. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate has stated who wrote the source but has not developed this and therefore, cannot be credited with a mark as they are repeating what is stated on the paper. A mark has been given for one omission about statues being placed outside houses to ward off evil.

Candidate 9

Question 1 (2018 question paper)

Describe some of the factors affecting the price a slave might fetch at auction. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**. This is a good answer. This candidate has mentioned at least four characteristics/details about slaves and developed each point by explaining why this would help add to the price or make a slave cheaper.

Question 2 (2018 question paper)

Explain the reasons why gods and religion were very important to the citizens of classical Athens. (6 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. The candidate has made three good points about why the gods were important to the people of Pompeii and developed two of these

points to gain further marks. A final mark was not awarded for the point about priestesses at the end as this is a more general comment about religion and not specific to the question.

Question 3 (2018 question paper)

To what extent did men in classical Athens have better lives than women?

You should explain different aspects of the lives of men and women and come to a reasoned conclusion. (8 marks)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks**. The candidate has provided a wealth of examples about the lives of both men and women and therefore was awarded 5 marks for knowledge. A further mark was provided for the different aspects that were covered, eg in the home and in public. Both marks were given for the conclusion which was presented with a definitive reason.

Question 7(b) (2018 question paper)

Explain in what ways women were expected to behave in the classical world. (3 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. This is a good answer. The candidate has included three well explained points about how women were expected to behave in the classical world.

Question 7(c) (2018 question paper)

In what ways does life for women today compare with life in the classical world. (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. The candidate has made a number of points that compare the differences in the lives of women today with women in classical times.

Question 8(a) (2018 question paper)

Describe a situation in a classical text where a character has not been in control of his or her destiny. (5 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. This is a good answer as it looks at the reasons why Odysseus wasn't in control of his own destiny at various stages of his journey back to Ithaca and the causes of these problems. There is good reference to the text with context and description.

Question 8(b) (2018 question paper)

Explain what this tells us about the idea of fate in the classical world compared with today. (5 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. This is a good answer as the candidate refers back to the actions described in their response to question 8(a) and it refers to both the modern and classical world, providing several examples for each.

Question 13 (2018 question paper)

Explain what Sources A and B tell us about the worship of gods in Pompeii.

You should identify the relevant pieces of information in the sources and explain what they mean. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**. This is a good answer. The candidate methodically provides two observations about Source A and several quotes from Source B which are clearly explained.

Candidate 10

Question 10 (2019 question paper)

Explain the reasons why the baths were popular with the people of Pompeii. (6 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. This is a good answer and has five clear points explaining why the baths were popular in Pompeii. A sixth point about having to visit the baths often to wash was not deemed to be strong enough to be awarded a mark.

Question 13 (2019 question paper)

Explain what Sources A and B tell us about the dangers experienced by people during the eruption of Vesuvius.

You should identify the relevant pieces of information in the sources and explain what they mean. (4 marks)

This is an excellent answer and was awarded **4 marks**. The candidate provides two observations about each source, clearly explaining what they can see and interpreting the evidence presented in the written source.

Candidate 11

Question 14 (2019 question paper)

Evaluate the usefulness of Source B for describing the impact of the eruption of Vesuvius on the town of Pompeii.

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it or what it has missed out. (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. This candidate has mistaken the date of the eruption and the date of Pliny's letter. They have been awarded 1 mark for their comment on risks and decision making and 1 mark for one omission. They needed to consider more of the prompts to gain further marks.