

Commentary on candidate evidence (Catullus section)

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

Question 1(a)

The candidate was awarded the full **2 marks** for:

- ♦ 'let's love'
- ♦ 'despite horrible rumours...' i.e. let's ignore gossip

The candidate did not gain any marks for quoting the Latin without a suitable/approximate translation.

Question 1(b)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** out of a possible 3 for:

- ♦ 'Lesbia would have thought the idea of a scandal as inviting and exciting'

The rest of the response about the gods and the fates did not gain any marks, as these ideas did not reflect the content of the poem. The candidate was asked to 'Refer to Poem 1'.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded the full **4 marks** for:

- ♦ 'Catullus compares Lesbia's new lover to god'
- ♦ 'Catullus is envious'
- ♦ 'that man won over Lesbia by attracting her affections' i.e. that man is on the receiving end of Lesbia's attention
- ♦ 'my two eyes are covered in darkness' i.e. cannot function properly

Question 3

The candidate was awarded the full **3 marks** for:

- ♦ 'Catullus compares the quantity of his kisses to the grains of Libyan sand'
- ♦ 'sand grains cannot be counted and therefore deemed limitless' ie they suggest infinity
- ♦ 'there are thousands and thousands of stars in the sky, similar to the thousands and thousands of kisses Catullus wishes to give and receive from Lesbia'

Question 4(a)

The candidate was awarded the full **2 marks** for:

- ♦ 'there is no point in mourning over lost love' i.e. accept what is lost as lost
- ♦ 'He needs to realise that Lesbia doesn't love him and he should not despair over a girl' is a developed point and gains the second mark

Question 4(b)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** out of a possible 3 for:

- ◆ 'They loved each other very much' i.e. their love was intense/passionate
- There were no further marks awarded for the quoted Latin phrases without an appropriate translation. 'Their love had gone unchallenged' is not a valid point, based on the reading of this poem.

Question 4(c)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** out of a possible 3 for:

- ◆ 'The rhetorical questions pose an uncertainty that may sway Lesbia's thoughts' i.e. he is making her think of the future

There were no further marks awarded for:

- ◆ 'It makes her guilty'.
- ◆ The candidate's list of rhetorical questions about Lesbia's thoughts and feelings, as these are not valid, based on the reading of this poem

Question 5(a)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** out of a possible 1 because:

- ◆ 'Catullus complements him' is insufficient without further explanation. The point as it stands is too brief

Question 5(b)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** out of a possible 2 because:

- ◆ 'Fabullus' power and flattery of women' is not the same as "he is invited to bring a girlfriend" and does not reflect accurate knowledge of the text

Question 5(c)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** out of a possible 1 because the candidate could not answer the question.

Question 5(d)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** out of a possible 2 because:

- ◆ The Latin quote totum...nasum has not been translated. If it had been, the candidate could have gained 1 mark
- ◆ 'Catullus teases Fabullus about things slipping under his nose without noticing' is not a valid point. Although aware that there was some humour about a 'nose', the candidate was not able to explain the joke.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded the full **4 marks** for:

- ◆ 'It is custom to respectfully bury the dead' i.e. they paid their respects to the dead
- ◆ 'Catullus travelled many a distance' i.e. they travelled great distances
- ◆ 'to pay respects to his dead brother's grave' i.e. family members visited graves
- ◆ 'Catullus grieves over the loss of his brother' i.e. there was much weeping

The candidate could not gain marks for:

- ◆ '... successfully make it to the afterlife'

- ◆ 'three mounds of earth over the dead's body'

Although these points might be accurate, they are not contained in this poem and the candidate was asked "What can we learn **from this poem....?**"

As answers are always marked positively, the candidate did not lose any marks for wrongly stating that the brother had been killed in the Trojan War.