



Questions & Answers

Classical Studies Higher

Classical Literature

Do candidates have to use the same texts in the essay question and in the modern comparison question, or can they bring in other texts, including ones they may have studied at National 5?

Any relevant texts and any number of texts may be used to answer any question. Also, the essay questions and the modern comparison question are free-standing, and it is acceptable to repeat any relevant point you have made in the essay question in the modern comparison one.

In the essay question, if a candidate misinterprets the question and writes an answer that is geared towards a different slant to the one demanded by the essay title, should the overall mark be based on just the relevant information they have included which does address the question (so could still achieve in the higher bands if their knowledge and analysis there is accurate, detailed, etc), or are they limited to the lower bands for knowledge and analysis & evaluation because say half of their essay was irrelevant?

It is difficult to give a definitive answer without reading the candidate's essay. In such a case, the awarding of marks will largely be addressed by the marks allocated for knowledge. If half of the essay is irrelevant, it is unlikely that the candidate would be awarded more than 4 marks for knowledge.

In the essay question, what should a marker especially look out for?

A marker should look for detailed, accurate, relevant, and exemplified points. Look holistically at the essay at the end, and don't give credit for the same point twice.

In the essay question, how might a candidate gain the mark for contextualising in the introduction?

A sentence or two should be enough for the candidate to show they understand this. The contextualising can be with the literature, although the context should use different texts than that used in the main body of the essay, or with the classical world in general. The points should be straightforward ones.

When contextualising conflict, the candidate might consider the aspect or type of conflict, consequences of conflict or conflict resolution. With leadership, a text produced in democratic

Athens is not likely to show a dictator or tyrant in a good light. With heroism, there are different types, for example heroism on the battlefield or intellectual heroism.

In the modern comparison question, can candidates be awarded any marks for comments on context?

No. No marks are awarded for this.

In the modern comparison question, do candidates need to mention the text they are referring to, or can they simply mention the name of the character?

If it is the eponymous character, this is acceptable, but it is better to mention the text. This is especially true where a character (for example Creon or Teiresias) appears in more than one text. A character might appear and act differently in two different texts, and the candidate might wish to use this in their answer.

In the modern comparison question, can a candidate be awarded 2 marks for a comparison which looks at the same piece of evidence from two points of view?

Yes. The candidate would be awarded 2 marks for saying, for example, 'this is similar in that ..., while it is different in that ...'.

Classical Society

In the 12 mark analyse/evaluate questions, can candidates use headings to signpost the three or four aspects they are going to analyse/evaluate?

Yes. That would be good practice. The idea of the three or four aspects is to help candidates with structure and to help them maintain focus. It is also a good idea to have an introductory sentence mentioning the aspects to be covered.

In the 12 mark analyse question, the marking instructions say that 2 marks can be awarded for establishing contradiction or inconsistencies between aspects, or exploring different interpretations of these aspects. Why is there no similar comment in the marking instructions for the evaluate question?

This is not mentioned in the marking instructions for an evaluate question, as exploring different views is implicit in that type of question.

In the 12 mark analyse/evaluate questions, can you confirm that no conclusion is required?

No conclusion is needed, and no marks are awarded for one. Candidates should be discouraged from taking time to write them. If a candidate does write a conclusion which contains a new, relevant

point (something which ought not to appear in a conclusion anyway), they should, of course, be given credit for that.

In the modern comparison question, can a candidate make eight simple comparisons rather than making four more detailed ones?

Yes. Up to 2 marks are awarded for each comparison, so the allocation of 8 marks can be awarded for four detailed comparisons, eight simple ones, or a combination of detailed and simple comparisons.

In the modern comparison question, can a candidate be credited as identifying source content if they only quote the source, or does it need to be either paraphrased or interpreted in more detail to be credited with the full 2 marks per comparison?

Candidates can quote the source or paraphrase when they identify points, but the marks are not awarded for this. The marks for the comparison are awarded for giving similarities or differences between the point identified in the source and the classical world. In the marking instructions there is a list of possible points from the source, but this list is to show things candidates might take from the source to use in making their comparisons. Marks are not awarded for mentioning these points or expanding on them in a modern context. Marks are awarded for what the candidate says about the classical world.