

Markscheme

May 2026

Latin

Higher level

Paper 1

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Paper 1—Guided analysis

To what extent does the response contain an analysis of textual features and/or authorial choices?

To what extent is the response supported by evidence that is relevant and correctly understood?

Marks	Description
0	The response does not meet the description below.
1–2	The response describes or summarizes examples from the extract; the response contains little analysis of textual features and/or authorial choices. The response is supported by evidence that is irrelevant to the prompt, or incorrectly understood.
3–4	The response contains some analysis of textual features and/or authorial choices and how they shape meaning, but relies on description. The response is supported by evidence that is somewhat relevant to the prompt and partially understood.
5–6	Throughout the response there is plausible analysis of textual features and/or authorial choices; the response draws conclusions from evidence. The response is directly supported by relevant evidence that is correctly understood.

Option A

Extract 1: Prose — Seneca, *Letters* 54.1–3

1. (a) After a long respite from ill health [1], (now) it attacked him suddenly [1].
- (b) None/ no type (of illness)/nothing is unknown to Seneca [1].
- (c) (He does not know why) it is called/he calls it ‘asthma’/by its Greek name [1] it is/involves/can (adequately) be called shortness of breath [1].
- (d) Award [1] up to [4] for any of the following: they are brief (*brevis*); and like a storm (*procellae similis*); they let up within an hour (*intra horam desinit*); (all manner of) (bodily) inconveniences/dangers (*incommoda/pericula*); go through/permeate/affect him/his body (*per me transierunt*).
- (e) Award [1] up to [3] for any of the following: anything else is (just) being ill; this is like breathing out your life/soul (or: expiring, dying etc); the doctors call it; a practice in dying.
- (f) His breath will do [1] what it has often tried (i.e., to stop/leave him) [1].

- (g) The [6] for how well the translation conveys the meaning of the passage are awarded using the markbands below.

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	The response does not adequately communicate the meaning of the text. Lexical and grammatical errors are in evidence throughout the translation.
3–4	The response communicates the general meaning of the text. Lexical and grammatical errors are isolated but significant.
5–6	The response accurately communicates the meaning of the text. Lexical and grammatical errors do not impair the translation.

The [10] for the precision of the translation are awarded as follows, with each word or phrase worth [1].

	Word or phrase	Type of mark	Response
1	<i>me</i>	Syntax/morphology	subject of <i>scribere</i>
2	<i>quia</i>	Meaning in context	“because”
3	<i>effugi</i>	Syntax/morphology	1st person sg perfect
4	<i>tam ... quam</i>	Syntax/morphology	rendition of comparison (“so/as ... as...”)
5	<i>fine</i>	Meaning in context	“outcome”, “end” (not: “boundary”)
6	<i>delector</i>	Syntax/morphology	1st person singular verb
7	<i>vicisse</i>	Syntax/morphology	perfect active infinitive
8	<i>ipsa</i>	Syntax/morphology	modifying <i>suffocatione</i>
9	<i>fortibus</i>	Meaning in context	“brave”, “courageous” (not: “strong”)
10	<i>adquiescere</i>	Meaning in context	“rejoice in”, “be satisfied with” (not: “acquiesce to”)

Extract 2: Verse — Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura* 6.1225, 1230–1238

2. An approach based on content is expected, but answers might concentrate on, among other things, plot, tone, theme, or style. Answers may consider that the texts come from different forms/genres.

Expect two discrete points of contrast, awarding a maximum of **[2]** for each (**[1]** for a suitably justified judgement made on each text and **[1]** for supporting Latin with evidence of understanding).

Points may include those below, although other discussion points should be accepted at the discretion of the examiner:

- While Seneca understands his illness to be temporary (*brevi autem valde et procellae similis est impetus; intra horam fere desinit*) or sees it as a “practice for death” (*meditationem mortis*), the Athenians consider themselves condemned to death (*morti damnatus ut esset*).
- While Seneca foresees his death by illness at some point in his future (*aliquando*) the Athenians die on the spot (*animam amittebat ibidem*)
- While Seneca’s thoughts stay brave and cheerful (*ego vero et in ipsa suffocatione non desii cogitationibus laetis ac fortibus adquiescere*), the Athenians lose heart and lie with sad spirit (*deficiens animo maestus cum corde iacebat*).
- While the Athenians live in fear of catching the illness from others (*avidus contagio morbi*), Seneca has one recurring illness that comes back again and again (*uni morbo quasi adsignatus sum*)

3. Answers may adopt a variety of approaches but should consider the relationship between form and meaning. Because a summary is provided, the focus of the question is on the literary or rhetorical effect of the passage.

Points should consist of a clearly understood Latin quotation, an analysis of its form (literary or rhetorical feature), and an exploration of its intended effect on the reader. They may include:

- the pathetic image of the unattended funerals (*incomitata funera*) that are unattended due to a lack of surviving family members / fear of contagion (first position of *incomitata* receiving stress, as well as final position of *vasta*, suggesting the great number of them) “competing with one another to be rushed through” (*rapi certabant*), showing the desperate situation of funerals needing to be undertaken quickly with little ceremony
- the despair of those infected emphasized by the author’s assessment (*miserandum magnopere unum aerumnabile erat*; alliteration and enjambment, as well as tautologous *miserandum* and *aerumnabile*, emphasizing the pitiable lot of these people)
- emphasis on the number of funerals due to repeated use of *funera* throughout the passage (lines 1 and 6, polyptoton in line 10)
- the desperate focus on their own death leads the diseased to expire “at that very moment” (*funera respectans animam amittebat ibidem*; assonance, delayed *ibidem* emphasizing the suddenness/immediacy of their demise)
- the extremely contagious nature of the disease emphasized (*apisci ex aliis alios avidi contagia*; stressed by assonance, polyptoton)
- the depiction of the disease as being greedy (*avidus ... morbi*)
- the comparison of humans to animals to suggest their powerlessness to escape the illness (*lanigeras tamquam pecudes et bucera saecula*).

Mark in accordance with the markbands on page 3.

Option B

Extract 3: Verse — Catullus, *Carmina* 68.9–26

4. (a) That Manlius calls him a friend (accept: that he is Manlius's friend) [1] and asks (him) for poetry/the gifts of the Muses and Venus [1].
- (b) His troubles being unknown to Manlius [1], or that Manlius may think that he hates/avoids his duty (as a friend) [1], and that Manlius asks for (further) gifts/poetry [1].
- (c) Award [1] up to [4] for any of the following: when first (*tempore quo primum*); he received his "white clothing" (*vestis mihi tradita pura est*); his youth was fresh/flowery (*florida*); it was pleasant (*iucundum*); he had fun/wrote poetry a lot **or** enough (*multa lusi* or *satis lusi*).
- (d) She mixes (sweet) bitterness [1] with love/cares/grief [1]. Also accept: she knows Catullus (or similar)
- (e) (His brother's) death has taken away [1] all his enthusiasm [1] through/with/in grief [1].

- (f) The [6] for how well the translation conveys the meaning of the passage are awarded using the markbands below.

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	The response does not adequately communicate the meaning of the text. Lexical and grammatical errors are in evidence throughout the translation.
3–4	The response communicates the general meaning of the text. Lexical and grammatical errors are isolated but significant.
5–6	The response accurately communicates the meaning of the text. Lexical and grammatical errors do not impair the translation.

The [10] for the precision of the translation are awarded as follows, with each word or phrase worth [1].

	Word or phrase	Type of mark	Response
1	<i>misero</i>	Syntax/morphology	modifying <i>mihi</i>
2	<i>adempte</i>	Syntax/morphology	perfect passive participle
3	<i>fregisti</i>	Syntax/morphology	2nd pers sg perfect
4	<i>est sepulta</i>	Syntax/morphology	3rd pers sg perfect passive
5	<i>una (second)</i>	Meaning in context	‘along with’, ‘together with’, ‘at the same time’ (not: ‘one’)
6	<i>quae</i>	Syntax/morphology	object of <i>alebat</i>
7	<i>cuius</i>	Syntax/morphology	referring back to the brother/‘you’
8	<i>interitu</i>	Meaning in context	‘death’
9	<i>fugavi</i>	Meaning in context	‘chase’ (not: ‘flee’)
10	<i>animi</i>	Syntax/morphology	gen. with <i>delicias</i>

Extract 4: Prose — Pliny, *Letters* 1.12.11–12

5. An approach based on content is expected, but answers might concentrate on, among other things, plot, tone, theme, or style. Answers may consider that the texts come from different forms/genres.

Expect one point of comparison and one of contrast, awarding a maximum of **[2]** for each (**[1]** for a suitably justified judgement made on each text and **[1]** for supporting Latin with evidence of understanding).

- Both Pliny and Catullus are keen to stress that they are experiencing personal pain and/or misery as a result of their bereavements; Pliny refers to being bereft of a friend (*quo amico ... caream*) or grieving on his own account (*doleo ... meo nomine*), while Catullus addresses his brother as taken from him (*o misero frater adempte mihi*).
 - Both Pliny and Catullus are concerned about what their reader is thinking of them in such times; Catullus is concerned about keeping up appearances (*me odisse putes hospitis officium*), while Pliny believes that his reader may think him weak (*licet me imbecillum putes*).
 - Pliny is, however, able to see how his friend died with some upsides (e.g., *evasit perpetuam valetudinem. scio.*), while Catullus is solely focused on how his brother's passing has affected him, describing his joy as dead (*perierunt gaudia nostra*) and informing Manlius of **his** misfortunes (*mea incommoda*).
 - While Pliny mentions his friend's career/achievements in life (*florente re publica, quae illi omnibus carior erat*), Catullus focuses on memories of their happy childhood (*aetas florida ver ageret*).
 - While Pliny identifies the specific gap there will be in his life through the loss of a mentor (*testem, rectorem, magistrum*), Catullus's close relationship with the deceased means his whole family has been altered/destroyed (*tota est nostra sepulta domus*).
6. Answers may adopt a variety of approaches but should consider the relationship between form and meaning. Because a summary is provided, the focus of the question is on the literary or rhetorical effect of the passage.

Throughout the passage, Pliny oscillates between grieving for his friend and approaching his death with acceptance. Points should consist of a clearly understood Latin quotation, an analysis of its form (literary or rhetorical feature), and an exploration of its intended effect on the reader. They may include:

- The asyndeton of *quo amico, quo viro* highlights clearly the two ways in which Pliny's friend was significant to him and the sense of loss which he feels.
- This is, however, offset by a series of positive aspects of his friend's passing, such as his age, avoidance of chronic ill health, and the circumstances surrounding his death. Each of these points is answered by Pliny (hypophora) with *scio* (I know), showing his attempts to rationalize and come to terms with his friend's death.
- The asyndeton of *superstitibus suis, florente re publica* stresses how his friend's death was attended by happy personal and public circumstances.
- These rationalizing statements are offset by Pliny's reversion to lamenting his own situation; the anaphora/repetition of *doleo ... doleo* and *amisi ... amisi* stresses his sense of personal sorrow at his friend's passing.
- The tricolon of *testem rectorem magistrum* demonstrates the various ways in which his friend influenced his life and therefore the gap that was now left.

Mark in accordance with the markbands on page 3.