VCE Classical Studies
2019–2023 2020

Written examination – End of year

Assessment criteria

Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge of the classical works and their relationships with their sociohistorical contexts
- analysis of the ideas and the techniques used to express these ideas in the classical works
- comparison and evaluation of the ideas and techniques used in the classical works
- construction of an argument based on relevant evidence

Assessors mark holistically, relating student performance to the published criteria and ranking students over the full range of marks available. Determination of the mark is assisted by the descriptors in ‘Expected qualities for the mark range’. These descriptors have been written to reflect the level of achievement expected at a particular mark or mark range. Both the criteria and the descriptors are fully explored and directly related to the range of student responses during the assessor training process.
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<th>Mark(s)</th>
<th>Expected qualities</th>
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<td>18–20</td>
<td>Demonstrates a thorough, detailed knowledge of the classical works and all relevant sociohistorical material&lt;br&gt;Selects the best/most appropriate material for the specific question to use as evidence&lt;br&gt;Provides exceptional analysis of the ideas and the techniques used to express these ideas in the classical works based on a sophisticated understanding of classical ideas and techniques, and conveys an understanding of the classical world&lt;br&gt;Provides a sophisticated comparison of the techniques used in both classical works&lt;br&gt;Presents a sophisticated evaluation of how the techniques are used in the classical works&lt;br&gt;A clear, convincing and completely supported position is taken on the question&lt;br&gt;All evidence presented is relevant, accurate and used effectively&lt;br&gt;Sustained and focused argument throughout</td>
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<td>15–17</td>
<td>Demonstrates a detailed knowledge of the classical works and sociohistorical material, not all of which may be relevant&lt;br&gt;Provides a convincing analysis of the ideas and the techniques used to express the ideas of classical works, although at times the analysis may not be fully sustained&lt;br&gt;A thorough comparison of the ideas and techniques used to express these ideas in the classical works is provided, and demonstrates an understanding of the different viewpoints&lt;br&gt;Presents an evaluation that may not be sustained&lt;br&gt;A substantiated position is taken on the question&lt;br&gt;Usually selects the most appropriate material to use as evidence, and most of the evidence is relevant and accurate&lt;br&gt;The argument is generally sustained</td>
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<td>12–14</td>
<td>Demonstrates a good, although not always detailed, knowledge of the classical works and their sociohistorical contexts, not all of which may be relevant&lt;br&gt;Demonstrates a good understanding of the main ideas and the techniques used to express the ideas of the classical works&lt;br&gt;Attempts, but may not be able to sustain, an analysis&lt;br&gt;Some comparison of the ideas and techniques used, with an attempt at an evaluation&lt;br&gt;A good argument is presented and is supported by relevant evidence&lt;br&gt;May select material that is not always relevant as evidence&lt;br&gt;The argument is consistent but may be lacking complexity and is inconclusive</td>
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| 9–11    | Demonstrates a sound general knowledge of the classical works  
Some inaccuracies and knowledge of the main features of the sociohistorical contexts, not all of which may be relevant  
Attempts to analyse the ideas and the techniques used to express the ideas of classical works but this is mostly narration  
Some simplistic reference to the better-known classical ideas  
Some comparison of the ideas and techniques used to express these ideas, although this may not be sustained and may be mainly a description of the techniques  
Little attempt at an evaluation  
A reasonable argument is presented and is supported by some evidence  
Argument and evidence may tend more to description and/or illustration |
| 5–8     | Demonstrates a basic, general knowledge of the classical works, but with little detail  
Sociohistorical material is inaccurate or limited or of little relevance to the argument  
Describes the ideas and the techniques used to express the ideas of the classical works but provides limited analysis  
Material may not be exhaustive and there is little comment on its significance  
Very little comparison of the ideas and techniques and little attempt at an evaluation  
Some attempt at argument is presented, but is poorly supported by limited evidence  
Argument is lacking in structure and substance |
| 1–4     | Demonstrates little knowledge of the classical works and little or no evidence of knowledge of sociohistorical material  
Very brief material is presented with little or no explicit analysis of the ideas and the techniques used to express the ideas of the classical works  
Describes some of the ideas and techniques used but does not compare and makes no attempt at an evaluation  
Lack of discernible argument with little evidence and/or limited relevance |
| 0       | Demonstrates no understanding of the classical works or the sociohistorical material  
No reference to the ideas or the techniques used to express the ideas of classical works  
No comparison of the works  
No argument presented |