

VCE Classical Studies

2019–2023

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Classical Studies Study Design 2019–2023* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question book. Students will write their responses in a general answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections.

Section A will consist of eight questions, one for each of the eight classical works studied from List 1: Individual Works of the VCE Classical Studies: Classical Works List for the year in question. Students will answer **two** questions from Section A. Each question will be accompanied by an extract from a classical work and will contain multiple parts consisting of both short-answer and extended-answer questions. Questions in Section A will be derived from Unit 3, Area of Study 1 and Unit 4, Area of Study 1. Section A will be worth a total of 40 marks.

Section B will consist of eight essay questions, one for each of the eight pairs of classical works studied from List 2: Paired Works of the VCE Classical Studies: Classical Works List for the year in question. Students will answer **one** of these essay questions. Questions in Section B will be derived from Unit 3, Area of Study 2 and Unit 4, Area of Study 2. The response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria specified below. Section B will be worth a total of 40 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 80.

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

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Classical Studies examination:

- *VCE Classical Studies Study Design 2019–2023*
- *VCE Classical Studies – Advice for teachers 2019–2023*
- VCE Classical Studies: Classical Works List (published annually)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2019–2023 accreditation period for VCE Classical Studies, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing sample questions has been published on the VCE Classical Studies 'Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample questions provide an indication of the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample questions.