

# Commentary on candidate evidence

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

The candidate was awarded a total of **29 marks** as follows:

## Question 1(a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for:

- ◆ 'His lover, Lesbia'

## Question 1(b)

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

- ◆ 'Being able to not to listen to the scornful comments of others'
- ◆ 'The shortness of life makes the love more fulfilling'
- ◆ 'Being able to share as much love and as many kisses with your lover as you want'

Another valid point made by the candidate is:

- ◆ 'Being able to love who you want ... without judgement'

## Question 2(a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for:

- ◆ 'She does not want to marry anyone but him, not even if the God Jupiter wanted her'. It is acceptable to give 'wanted her' as an alternative to 'marry her' in this context.

## Question 2(b)

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

- ◆ 'Repeated use of the word '*dicit*' meaning 'says' showing he thinks she is only saying these things without sincerity.'
- ◆ '*oportet aqua*' the things she says can be written on fast flowing water showing they change and are not worth remembering.' The Latin quote does not match the point being made, but the mark awarded is for the response itself and not for the Latin quote.
- ◆ 'Catullus mentioning writing her words on the wind implies they have no weight and are not to be taken literally.'

Another valid point made by the candidate is:

- ◆ 'The mention of a desirous lover implies he is no longer blinded by love and can see she is insincere.'

### Question 3

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

- ◆ 'The metre of this poem is an elegiac couplet, which is traditionally used by Greek poets to show strong grief or love. As he is conflicted and pained, the metre helps to show this.' This response falls under the heading of 'Any other valid point'.
- ◆ 'The oxymoron '*odi et amo*' shows he feels conflicted and doesn't know what to do with himself. He cannot grasp his feelings and this pains him.' Although the candidate has not translated the Latin quote, the meaning is implied in the response and so the mark was awarded in a block review.
- ◆ '*excrucior*' meaning 'tormented' implies Catullus feels tortured by his emotions'

Another valid point made by the candidate is:

- ◆ '*fortasse requires?*' The use of a rhetorical question emphasises his confusion, as he does not know the answer either. He is searching for answers and cannot find them.'

The candidate has chosen to focus the response on the use of language rather than content, which is acceptable.

### Question 4(a)

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

- ◆ 'To stop being a fool'
- ◆ 'Let go of the past, 'what is perished, consider perished'.'

Another valid point made by the candidate is:

- ◆ 'To move on from Lesbia'

### Question 4(b)

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

- ◆ '*tibi soles*' meaning 'blazing suns' implies it always felt sunny and warm, most days felt perfect.' The Latin quote has not been translated accurately but the mark is for the comment which is correct.

- ◆ '*nec puella nolebat*' shows the girl always reciprocated his loving feelings and wanted to do things together.'
- ◆ 'Catullus also mentions always following the girl around. Wherever she was, he was not far behind, implying he had someone he enjoyed spending time with.' This response could have been worth 2 marks, as it contains a valid developed point.

Another valid point made by the candidate is:

- ◆ '*amata nobis quantum amabitur nulla*' shows they loved each other as no-one else could.'

### Question 4(c)

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

- ◆ '*obdura*' meaning 'endure' implies Catullus is not finding the breakup easy. He must fight through his pain to get over it and he finds it difficult.'
- ◆ '*nec miser vive*' meaning 'do not live miserably' shows he is pained with sadness. He is trying to snap himself of the misery he feels.'

Although it is pleasing to see a candidate discuss metre, the candidate's comment about the poem's metre is not relevant in this context.

### Question 5(a)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for:

- ◆ 'To visit his dead brother a final time.'

The candidate's point about attending his brother's funeral is not accurate as the funeral has already taken place and Catullus is merely visiting the grave.

### Question 5(b)

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

- ◆ 'Repetition of family words i.e. '*frater*' symbolising his brotherly love that he held.'
- ◆ '*ave et vale*' meaning 'hail and farewell' implies he will always love and never forget his brother, but this is a final goodbye and he knows he is now gone.'
- ◆ 'The reference to fate stealing his brother implies he didn't want his brother to go and it was not his time.'

The reference to the metre is not relevant in this context.

### Question 6(a)

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

- ◆ 'He is a tricky person who steals from people enjoying themselves.' Although the English word 'tricky' normally means 'involving snags', 'tricky' in this context is acceptable to mean 'sly'.
- ◆ 'He is a cynical person who finds the misfortune of others humorous.'

Other valid points made by the candidate are:

- ◆ 'He is ungrateful towards his host.'
- ◆ 'He is a thief and enjoys it.'

### Question 6(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for making the following valid points to support the 'yes' answer:

- ◆ 'Romans were a deeply heigherarchical society and status meant a lot. To lose his high up position would be awful for Asinius.'
- ◆ 'He may have been scared of others not inviting him to parties anymore.'

Other valid points made by the candidate to support the 'yes' answer are:

- ◆ 'He didn't want people thinking his brother was better than him.'
- ◆ 'He ... was scared of what Catullus would say about him next.'

### Question 7

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for making the following valid points in support of the Romans having a good sense of humour:

- ◆ '*plenus sacculus est araneorum*' this humorous metaphor where Catullus says his purse is full of cobwebs to symbolise he is poor creates a funny picture in the reader's mind.'
- ◆ '*fabulle, nasum*' The outlandish idea that Fabullus would want to become one big nose is quite funny and I think some would find the silliness of this funny.'
- ◆ 'For he's a lad packed full of charm and wit' Teasing friends is still funny today. Catullus implies Asinius' brother is better than him to provoke him. This is funny and still done by may today.'

For the full 3 marks, candidates need to refer to at least two poems which is what the candidate has done by referring to Poem 7 and to Poem 9.

The candidate has done well to explain why each of the examples is funny, rather than merely listing examples.