

ASCS GREEK AND LATIN TRANSLATION COMPETITION REPORTS

Report on 2007 Competition

Examination Papers

Candidates were set a short passage of verse (Greek competition) or prose (Latin competition) and given 30 minutes to complete their translation. Competitions were administered and supervised locally, and held in week nine of the second semester, according to the calendar of each institution. Texts were chosen by Neil O'Sullivan and Ian Plant from Euripides *Rhesus* and Cicero *Orator ad M. Brutum*.

Examination Papers Received

Latin

Australian National University	2
University of Auckland	3
University of Canterbury	2
University of Melbourne	4
University of Western Australia	2
Victoria University of Wellington	7

Total 20

Greek

Australian National University	3
University of Canterbury	3
University of Melbourne	11
University of Auckland	1
Victoria University of Wellington	3

Total 21

Marking the papers

The papers were graded and ranked by Dr Greg Fox and Dr Ian Plant, Macquarie University

Results

Latin Competition

1st: Nicholas Fenech, (The University of Melbourne)

Highly Commended: Guiliano Serrao (Victoria University of Wellington)

Greek Competition

1st: Edward Smith (The University of Melbourne)

Highly Commended: Damjan Krsmanovic (The University of Melbourne), Sabin Proban (The University of Auckland).

The organisers were pleased with the number of entries and with the standard of the papers. Congratulations to the winners and to their teachers! We would like to encourage more language teachers to run the competition next year.

Dr I.M. Plant
30th October 2007

Report on 2008 Competition

Candidates were set a short passage of verse (Latin competition) or prose (Greek competition) and given 45 minutes to complete their translation. No dictionaries or other aids could be used. Competitions were administered and supervised locally, and held in week nine of the second semester, according to the calendar of each institution. The texts chosen for this year's competition were Xenophon *Cyropaedia* 3.2.14 and Ovid *Medicamina faciei femineae* 7-22 (copies attached).

Examination Papers Received.

Latin

Australian National University	4
University of Canterbury	3
University of Melbourne	6
Victoria University of Wellington	5
University of Adelaide	11
Monash University	3

Total 32 papers 6 universities

Greek

Australian National University	1
University of Melbourne	6
University of Auckland	1
Victoria University of Wellington	1
University of Adelaide	3
University of Sydney	5

Total 17 papers 6 universities

Overall: 49 students from 8 universities took part in this year's competition.

Marking the papers

The papers were graded and ranked by Dr Ian Plant, Macquarie University

Results

Latin Competition

1st: Hugh Niall (Monash University)

Highly Commended: Leigh McKinnon (Monash University), Katherine Wangmann (University of Melbourne), Mary Whitehead (University of Adelaide)

Greek Competition

1st: Sabin Proban (University of Auckland)

Highly Commended: Nicholas Olson (University of Sydney), Owen Colman (University of Melbourne)

The organisers were pleased with the number of entries and with the standard of the papers. The students found the Latin passage harder than the Greek this year. Congratulations to the winners and to their teachers! Thank you to all the university teaching staff who encouraged their students to take part. We would like to encourage more language teachers to run the competition next year.

Dr N. O'Sullivan and Dr I.M. Plant
Competition Co-Ordinators

Report on 2009 Competition

Examination Papers

Candidates were set a short passage of prose (Latin competition) or verse (Greek competition) and given 45 minutes to complete their translation. No dictionaries or other aids could be used. Competitions were administered and supervised locally, and held in week nine of the second semester, according to the calendar of each institution [some may have been held a week later where their calendar ran ahead of Macquarie and I didn't get the papers to them in time]. The texts chosen for this year's competition were Pliny *Natural History* VII.54-5 (187-8) and Timocles *Dracontion* Frg 8 (Kock) (see below).

Examination Papers Received.

Latin

Australian National University	1	
Monash University	1	
University of Adelaide	3	
University of Canterbury	1	
University of Melbourne	5	
Victoria University of Wellington	9	Total 20 papers from 6 universities

For comparison

2008: 32 papers; 6 universities

2007: 20 papers; 6 universities

Eight universities have now taken part in the Latin competition:

Australian National University
Monash University
University of Adelaide
University of Auckland
University of Canterbury
University of Melbourne
University of Western Australia
Victoria University of Wellington

Greek

Monash University	2	
University of Melbourne	5	
University of Queensland	3	
University of Sydney	1	
Victoria University of Wellington	4	Total 15 papers from 5 universities

For comparison

2008: 17 papers; 6 universities

2007: 21 papers; 5 universities

Nine universities have now taken part in the Greek competition:

Australian National University
Monash University
University of Adelaide
University of Auckland
University of Canterbury
University of Melbourne
University of Queensland
University of Sydney
Victoria University of Wellington

Marking the papers

The papers were graded and ranked by Dr Ian Plant, Macquarie University

Results

Latin Competition

1st: Kyle Conrau-Lewis (University of Melbourne)

Highly Commended: Hugh Niall (Monash University), Katherine Wangmann (University of Melbourne), Paul Reynolds (University of Melbourne), James Weston (University of Melbourne).

Greek Competition

1st: Owen Colman (University of Melbourne).

Highly Commended: Hugh Niall (Monash University), Nicholas Olson (University of Sydney)

I would also like to make special mention of the following students who attempted both papers: Katherine Wangmann (University of Melbourne), James Weston (University of Melbourne), Hugh Niall (Monash University).

I was again pleased with the number of entries and with the standard of the papers. Students found both papers challenging—especially the Pliny. Congratulations to the winners and to their teachers. I would particularly like to thank the university teaching staff who encouraged their students to take part and administered the papers:

Elizabeth Minchin (Australian National University)

Dr Giulia Torello (Monash University)

Dr Jacqueline Clarke and A/Prof Han Baltussen (University of Adelaide)

Dr Patrick O'Sullivan (University of Canterbury)

Dr Andrew Turner and Dr K. O. Chong-Gossard (University of Melbourne)

Dr Peter Gainsford, Dr Diana Burton and Dr Judy Deuling (Victoria University of Wellington)

Dr Tom Stevenson (University of Queensland)

Ms Francis Muecke (University of Sydney)

Dr I.M. Plant

Competition Co-ordinator

Report on 2010 Competition – Greek

First place

Paul Touyz (University of Sydney)

Highly commended

Hugh Niall (Monash University), Alex Wilson (Victoria University of Wellington)

Universities

Australian National University	3
Monash University	1
University of Melbourne	6
University of Queensland	2
University of Sydney	8
Victoria University of Wellington	1

TOTAL ENTRIES 21 entries from 6 universities

For comparison:	2009	15 entries from 5 universities
	2008	17 entries from 6 universities
	2007	21 entries from 5 universities

Passage and conditions

A short piece of Greek prose (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *Roman Antiquities* 2.69: the miraculous story of a Vestal Virgin, falsely accused) was set for translation. No dictionaries or other aids were permitted. Forty-five minutes were allowed for the unseen (including reading time), which was sat in Week 9 of Semester 2 in the respective institutions, and was administered and supervised locally.

The passage was not an easy one, but, pleasingly, many candidates coped with it well and few failed to complete their translations. The top three candidates did splendidly, and are to be warmly congratulated.

I would like to thank the academic staff who administered the unseen and encouraged their students to enter: Amelia Brown, Eric Csapo, Andrew Kelly, Peter Londey, Leanne McNamara, Frances Muecke, Jeff Tatum, and Giulia Torello.

Dr Anne Rogerson, University of Sydney

Report on 2010 Competition – Latin

Joint First place

OLSEN, Nicholas (University of Sydney)

NIALL, Hugh (Monash University)

Highly commended

THOMAS, Craig (Monash University), LEE, Jan (University of Adelaide), CONRAU-LEWIS, Kyle (University of Melbourne)

Universities

Adelaide University	4
Australian National University	5
University of Melbourne	6
Monash University	3
University of Sydney	5
Victoria University of Wellington	3

TOTAL ENTRIES 26 entries from 6 universities

For comparison:	2009	20 entries from 6 universities
	2008	32 entries from 6 universities
	2007	20 entries from 6 universities

Passage and conditions

A piece of Latin prose (Caesar, *Bellum Gallicum* 5.38.1-4: Ambiorix rouses his fellow-Gauls to attack the Romans in winter quarters) was set for translation. No dictionaries or other aids were permitted. Forty-five minutes were allowed for the unseen (including reading time), which was sat in Semester 2 in the respective institutions, and was administered and supervised locally.

The passage was a fairly straightforward one, and most candidates successfully attempted all parts of the unseen, and only a few did not attempt all parts of the translations. The top two candidates were essentially word-perfect, whereas those commended did work of an outstanding level too.

I would like to thank the academic staff who administered the unseen and encouraged their students to enter: Jacqueline Clarke (UAdel), Paul Burton and Jessica Dietrich (ANU), Parshia Lee-Stecum and Andrew Turner (UMelb.), Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides and Giulia Torello (MonashU), Frances Muecke and Anne Rogerson (USyd), Arthur Pomeroy (VUW).

Dr Jane Bellemore, University of Newcastle

Report on 2011 Competition – Greek

First place

Christian Katsikaros (University of Sydney)

Highly commended

Michael Barnes (Victoria University of Wellington), Mark Bonaventura (University of Melbourne), Thomas Wilson (University of Sydney)

Universities

Auckland University	2
Australian National University	4
University of Canterbury	3
University of Melbourne	1
University of Queensland	6
University of Sydney	7
Victoria University of Wellington	4

TOTAL ENTRIES 27 entries from 7 universities

For comparison:	2010	21 entries from 6 universities
	2009	15 entries from 5 universities
	2008	17 entries from 6 universities
	2007	21 entries from 5 universities

Passage and conditions

A short piece of Greek verse (Sophocles, *Trachiniae* 1191-202: Herakles instructions to his son about what to do with his poisoned body) was set for translation. No dictionaries or other aids were permitted. Forty-five minutes were allowed for the unseen (including reading time), which was sat in the first half of October in the respective institutions, and was administered and supervised locally.

Most candidates conveyed the general sense of the passage well, though several of the weaker ones failed to finish or left significant gaps. An alarming number thought that Herakles was instructing his son to chuck his corpse on the pyre, and might be reminded that *embállw* does not always denote a violent act. The top four candidates did splendidly, and are to be warmly congratulated for their accurate and fluent translations.

I would like to thank all those who administered the unseen and encouraged their students to enter: Anthony Alexander, Amelia Brown, Abigail Dawson, Judy Deuling, Andrew Kelly, Anne MacKay, Elizabeth Minchin, Patrick O’Sullivan, and Jeff Tatum.

Dr Anne Rogerson, University of Sydney

Report on 2011 Competition – Latin

First place

Thomas Lyle Marr (University of Sydney)

Highly commended

Nicola Rudill (University of Sydney)
Thomas Wilson (University of Sydney)
Benjamin Jackson, (University of Auckland)

Universities

University of Sydney	5
Australian National University	5
Auckland University	3
University of Canterbury	3
University of Melbourne	2
University of Queensland	1
TOTAL	19 from 6 universities

Passage and conditions

There were fewer entries than last year, and the passage was a little a harder, but the overall standard was quite high, and there were fewer who completely lost track.

The passage chosen was by Cicero, an extract from a letter written from exile to his wife and family. I thought that it was a bit different from the usual kind of unseen, and I hope that the students enjoyed reading Cicero's sentiments.

Thanks to all those who got their students to enter, administered the test, and then sent these on to me – also to Jeff Tatum who wrote to say that he had no entries.

Dr Jane Bellemore, University of Newcastle

Report on 2012 Competitions

The ASCS Greek and Latin Translation Competitions are held as a class test in which students at 200 and 300 level translate an unseen piece of text in 45-50 minutes. This year overall there were 58 entries from seven universities, up from 46 overall entries from the same number of universities last year. In 2012 there were 31 entries for the Latin Unseen, a passage from Ovid's *Met.* set by Dr Jane Bellemore of the University of Newcastle, and 27 for the Greek, a passage from Herodotus Book 7, set by Dr Gary Morrison of the University of Canterbury. The breakdown of entries submitted from each institution is as follows:

Institution	Greek Unseens	Latin Unseens
University of Otago	3	3
University of Melbourne	8	7
Victoria University, Wellington	1	10
University of Sydney	2	4
Australian National University	2	6
Macquarie University	2	-
University of Queensland	9	1

I am pleased to announce the winners. Congratulations go to the following students:

Greek Translation Competition:

Winner: Thomas Wilson, 3rd year, University of Sydney.

Highly Commended: Marc Bonaventura, 3rd year, University of Melbourne.

Latin Translation Competition:

Winner: Thomas Wilson, 3rd year, University of Sydney.

Highly Commended: Rohan Curtotti, 3rd year, Australian National University.

Joshua Baum, 3rd year, Australian National University.

Marc Bonaventura, 3rd year, University of Melbourne.

I would like to thank all the instructors who administered the tests and encouraged their students to take part in this competition: Gordon Turner, Peter Gainsford, K.O. Chong-Gossard, Ioannis Ziogas, Peter Londey, Murray Kane, Amelia Brown, Bob Cowan, Andrew Turner, Robin Hankey, Trevor Evans, Caillan Davenport, Mark Masterson, Art Pomeroy.

In particular I would like to thank Jane Bellemore and Gary Morrison for setting the texts and marking the submissions; their generosity at what is often a very busy time of year is very much appreciated. Their comments on the submissions overall are attached.

Dr Patrick O'Sullivan,
Vice-President, ASCS, and Competition Organiser
December 2012

Greek Unseen Competition

The passage chosen was Hdt. 7.208, where Xerxes sends a scout to survey the Greeks at Thermopylae and the scout observes the Spartans either exercising or combing their hair. It was not an easy passage, and not helped by the change of dialect to Ionic. Nevertheless, all the contestants did well. All put together most of the basic narrative, while occasionally there were creative additions or diversions most soon came back on task. Overall, all the candidates deserve recognition and credit for their efforts.

Some general comments:

- The context of the opening phrase was made clear in the English Introduction, quite a few missed this.
- The start of the second sentence caused a lot of problems. Many had Xerxes still in Thessaly, or the Greek army/Spartans in Thessaly, and/or did not recognize that the dative expresses 'time when'.
- Most got the idea that the scout could not see everything inside the wall, but had difficulty recognizing that the wall itself had been restored and was now being guarded.
- The last part was generally well done. Most recognized that the scout was amazed at what he saw, and returned at leisure to Xerxes to make his report.

Dr Gary Morrison
Classics Department
University of Canterbury

Latin Unseen Competition

The two top entries were very close, almost a tie. It was their handling of subjunctives that ultimately set them apart from the others.

On the whole, the standard was very high, and there were a good dozen who could equally well have been recommended. In fact, there were only a couple of questionable attempts, and most students made a fairly good fist of it.

I myself thought the passage was hard, but the students obviously didn't.

Well done to their teachers.

Dr J. Bellemore
School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Classics)
University of Newcastle