

## Marking Criteria for translations

It is very important to produce your own translations when working on the module even if the edition used contains a translation. If you appear to have memorised a translation and not worked it out for yourself your work will be marked down accordingly.

Try to avoid 'translationese', i.e. words or phrases which you would not use or find in normal written English. The ideal is to convert a passage of Greek/Latin into normal English which is appropriate to the style and level of the original.

It is very important to attempt to translate all of the passage set. Failure to do so will result in lowered marks in proportion to the amount of the passage which is not attempted. This point also applies to translation into Greek/Latin.

Below are set out the marking criteria for

- Translation out of Greek/Latin (unprepared)
- Translation out of Greek/Latin (prepared)
- Translation into Greek/Latin

### Translation out of Greek/Latin (unprepared)

First Class (70%+):

A translation which shows a full understanding of the overall meaning of the passage. It also shows that the grammar and syntax of the passage are recognised even if some of the vocabulary has been worked out by intelligent guess-work. A translation which is both reasonably close to the passage and which renders it in clear normal English of a type appropriate to the passage.

Upper Second Class (60-69%):

A translation which shows an understanding of the overall drift of the passage and of the meaning of most of the sentences. It shows that most of the grammar and syntax have been worked out correctly and that unfamiliar words have been translated by considered guess-work. A translation that is reasonably close to the original and written in clear normal English.

Lower Second Class Honours (50-59%):

A translation that show an understanding of at least some (a half or more) of the overall drift of the passage and the meaning of at least some of the sentences. It shows some evidence that the grammar and syntax has been worked out and that the meaning of unfamiliar words has been considered. It is written in intelligible English.

Third Class Honours (40-49%):

A translation that shows a weak grasp of the overall drift of the passage and an understanding of only a small number of sentences or their component clauses and phrases. A translation in which there is little evidence of recognition of the grammar and syntax of the passage and little use of considered guesswork to work out unfamiliar words. One in which the English expression is vague or awkward.

Fail (39%-)

A translation that shows very little grasp of the overall drift of the passage or of the meaning of particular sentences, clauses or phrases. One in which there is virtually no evidence of working out the grammar or syntax or of the meaning of unfamiliar words. One which is poorly expressed or presented in a sloppy or unintelligible form.

### **Translation out of Greek/Latin (prepared)**

First Class (70%+):

Only minor slips. Generally good, appropriate English.

Upper-Second Class (60-69%):

Good idea given of the overall sense of the original. Satisfactory English.

Lower-Second Class (50-59%):

Overall sense of the original not fully brought out, but most of the major elements discernible.

Third Class Honours (40-49%):

Important elements of the original not brought out and the general line of the narrative or argument left unclear, but at least half the text rendered correctly.

Fail (39%-):

Less than half the text rendered correctly.

### **Translation into Greek/Latin**

These criteria apply primarily to the translation of paragraphs of Greek/Latin but most of them also apply to the translation of individual sentences.

First Class (70%+):

A translation which translates accurately the meaning of the whole passage and of the component sentences. A translation which shows a good grasp of

the grammar and syntax of Greek/Latin. One which produces Greek/Latin which reads well, recasting the precise form of the original if this makes the translation more idiomatic. One which produces Greek/Latin which is appropriate to the original English.

Upper Second Class Honours (60-69%):

A translation which is largely accurate in expressing the meaning of the whole passage and of the component sentences. A translation in which most of the passage shows a good grasp of the grammar and syntax of Greek/Latin. One which produces Greek/Latin which is reasonably typical of that language.

Second Class Honours (50-59%):

A translation in which a fair amount (a half or more) of the original is translated accurately, and in which a similar amount of the translation shows a sound grasp of Greek/Latin grammar and syntax.

One in which some of the Greek/Latin produced is reasonably typical of that language.

Third Class Honours (40-49%):

A translation in which only a small amount of the original is translated accurately and which shows only a weak grasp of the grammar and syntax of Greek/Latin. One in which the Greek/Latin produced is only vaguely typical of that language.

Fail (39%-):

A translation in which hardly any of the passage is correctly translated and which shows very little knowledge of the grammar and syntax of Greek/Latin. One which produces Greek/Latin which is not typical of that language.