



JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

2000

GREEK

HIGHER AND ORDINARY LEVELS

CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

HIGHER LEVEL

1. INTRODUCTION

The Junior Certificate Examination Higher Level Greek paper comprises seven questions. Question 1 requires candidates to translate a passage from the prescribed text, *Greek Through Reading*, and to answer one background question on the passage. Question 1 carries 50 marks. Question 2 also requires candidates to translate a passage from the prescribed text and to answer one background question. Question 2 also carries 50 marks. Question 3 requires candidates to translate a passage of unprescribed Greek. This question carries 80 marks. Question 4 requires the comprehension of a passage of unprescribed Greek and carries 80 marks. Question 5 requires the composition of sentences from the vernacular into Greek. Question 5 carries 80 marks. Question 6 offers two questions on Greek History, one of which must be answered. This question carries 30 marks. Question 7 offers two questions on Greek Civilisation, Myth and Legend, one of which must be answered for 30 marks. The total number of marks for the paper is 400.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

A total of 53 students sat the Greek Higher Level Paper in 2000. This is an increase on recent years as **Appendix 1** shows. However, the numbers taking Greek remain very low.

The percentage results of the 2000 Higher Level examination were as follows:

A	B	C	D	E	F	NG
28.3	32.0	18.8	17.0	1.9	1.9	-

This represents a C+ rate of 79.1% and an E- rate of 3.8%

The results by grade for 1997, 1998 and 1999 are given in **Appendix 1**.

The results of this year's paper are in keeping with those of previous years.

3. ANALYSIS OF PAPER

Question 1

Section A

Candidates produced very good translations in general.

Section B

Both (i) and (ii) of this Section were well answered. Very good, and sometimes hugely detailed accounts of Oedipus were given. In (ii) the Minotaur and Andromeda stories were both popular.

Question 2

Section A

Again, in general, a very good translation was provided by candidates.

Section B

As in the previous question, both (i) and (ii) were answered in impressive detail.

Question 3

Candidates did quite well in this question, but not as well as in previous years. A number of questions were well done but (iii) and (vii) proved problematic. The specific grammar questions (xi) and (xii) were very well done.

Question 4

This question was well answered, the grammatical questions (g) and (h) were least well answered but, as always, there were candidates who were able to answer them correctly.

Question 5

A reasonable attempt at composition was made by many candidates, while a small number were excellent.

Question 6

Question (a) was answered well by a small number of candidates. In (b) only a small number wrote more than a description of the battle of Salamis and events before it. There was evidence that the students had studied these topics but had some difficulty recalling with precision.

Question 7

Question (a) was the more popular choice and was answered very well. Question (b) on the Parthenon elicited very few particularly good responses.

4. OVERALL GENERAL COMMENT

The candidates of the 2000 Greek Higher Level paper displayed an admirable breadth and depth of knowledge. The only part of the course where any lapse was evident was in Question 6 (History). In recent years there has been a small number of students whose knowledge of that section of the course was weaker than heretofore. This contrasts with the great detail offered by all students on the questions on myths and legends.

The high standard displayed by these candidates every year is testimony to the dedication and hard work of teachers and pupils alike.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Candidates are encouraged to make full use of captions and vocabulary aid in all cases.

All candidates could be encouraged to pay due attention to the History component of the course.

Examiners recognise the work of teachers and students alike in achieving such a consistently high standard.

APPENDIX 1

Percentage breakdown of candidates by grade awarded in Greek Junior Certificate, Higher Level

Year	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F	NG
1997	37	35.1	43.2	10.8	10.8	-	-	-
1998	28	21.4	42.8	14.2	17.8	3.5	-	-
1999	46	28.3	28.3	15.2	17.4	8.7	2.1	-

ORDINARY LEVEL

1. INTRODUCTION

The Junior Certificate Examination Ordinary Level Greek paper comprises seven questions. Question 1 requires candidates to translate a passage from the prescribed text, *Greek Through Reading*, and to answer one background question on the passage. Question 1 carries 50 marks. Question 2 also requires candidates to translate a passage from the prescribed text and to answer one background question. Question 2 also carries 50 marks. Question 3 requires candidates to translate a passage of unprescribed Greek. This question carries 80 marks. Question 4 requires the comprehension of a passage of unprescribed Greek and carries 80 marks. Question 5 requires the composition of sentences from the vernacular into Greek. Question 5 carries 80 marks. Question 6 offers two questions on Greek History, one of which must be answered. This question carries 30 marks. Question 7 offers two questions on Greek Civilisation, Myth and Legend, one of which must be answered for 30 marks. The total number of marks for the paper is 400.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

A total of 12 students sat the Greek Ordinary Level Paper in 2000. This is an increase on recent years as **Appendix 1** shows. However, the numbers taking Greek, especially at Ordinary Level, remain very low indeed.

The percentage results of the 2000 Ordinary Level examination were as follows:

A	B	C	D	E	F	NG
-	8.3	50.0	16.6	8.3	8.3	8.3

This represents a C+ rate of 58.3% and an E- rate of 25.0%

The results by grade for 1997, 1998 and 1999 are given in **Appendix 1**.

The results of this year's paper are in keeping with those of previous years.

3. ANALYSIS OF PAPER

Question 1

Section A

A number of candidates translated the prescribed text very well. A smaller number did very poorly.

Section B

Again a number of candidates did well on (i) but little was known about (ii).

Question 2

Section A

A number of candidates scored satisfactorily here and showed signs of preparation for the text question. A smaller number had not prepared.

Section B

There were reasonably good answers to both (i) and (ii).

Question 3

A few students scored reasonably well on this question, but for the majority it was here that any weakness showed.

Question 4

Examiners were encouraged to see the number of students who made a serious effort at this question and scored well.

Question 5

A number of the candidates did not attempt this question, while those who did make an attempt scored between 24 – 33 out of 80 marks.

Question 6

The majority of the students did not display enough information to do well in this question. However, a very small minority did exceptionally well.

Question 7

Question (a) elicited good answers, while Question (b) proved unpopular with all but a small minority who gave exceptionally good answers.

4. OVERALL GENERAL COMMENT

In general, the candidates of the 2000 Greek Ordinary Level paper displayed a seriousness of effort and a not inconsiderable depth of knowledge. Their choice of paper was judicious. It is encouraging to see that students at this level can gain so much from the study of Greek.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Candidates are encouraged to make full use of captions and vocabulary aid in all cases.

All candidates could be encouraged to attempt all questions on the paper.

Examiners recognise the work of teachers and students alike in achieving a satisfactory standard and maintaining a lively interest in the subject.

APPENDIX 1

Percentage breakdown of candidates by grade awarded in Greek Junior Certificate, Ordinary Level

Year	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F	NG
1997	2	-	50.0	-	-	50.0	-	-
1998	2	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-
1999	4	-	-	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	-