Prose composition marking criteria

First (70%+): completes the translation very well, with only a few minor slips or one major error; demonstrates a command of the Latin exceptional for the level; demonstrates excellent grasp of grammar and syntax covered at the time of assessment; achieves a stylistically consistent translation; independent work.

Within this class the following bands should also be distinguished:

(**80-89%**): fulfils the above criteria to an outstanding degree; extremely accurate and independent translation, with no major and only a few minor slips; consistent and independent in style.

(**90-100%**): fulfils the above criteria to an exceptional, virtually publishable, degree.

Upper second (60-69%): completes the translation well, with no more than 2 or 3 major errors and a few minor ones; demonstrates a sound grasp of the Latin/Greek and of grammar and syntax covered at the time of assessment; correctly recognises the major problems posed in the translation exercise and attempts to solve them although may be rather literal in places.

Lower second (50-59%): completes the translation satisfactorily, with no more than 5 or 6 major errors and some minor ones; demonstrates a fair grasp of Latin/Greek and of grammar and syntax covered at the time of assessment; translation is largely accurate, but may not make entirely continuous sense, may be unidiomatic, employ rare or unsuitable vocabulary and/or constructions; recognises and attempts to solve most of the major problems of the translation (if not always successfully).

Third (40-49%): at least half of the translation is rendered satisfactorily; demonstrates deficiencies in the grasp of Latin/Greek and of grammar and syntax covered at the time of assessment; translation likely to make only intermittent sense and exhibit reliance on guesswork; translation demonstrates that major problems posed in the translation exercise have not been recognised; general line of narrative or argument is left obscure and important elements of original are not brought out.

Fail (0-39%): less than half of the translation is rendered satisfactorily; demonstrates inadequate or no understanding of Latin/Greek and widespread ignorance of grammar and syntax.

Within this class the following bands should also be distinguished:

(20-39%): some attempt has been made to translate the passage, but less than half of the translation is rendered satisfactorily, and the translation shows little or no understanding of grammar and syntax.

(0-20%): no attempt has been made to translate the passage, or only a few isolated words have been translated correctly.