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Intensive Greek 2

Additional commentary guidance

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

1,500 word commentary exercise

- This is a new type of assessment within the Intensive modules – but more familiar if you have taken non-linguistic modules
- The starting point is a selected, unadapted Greek text. You need to produce your own, independent, translation (annotating it where necessary) and provide a commentary discussing the language, content, and context of the text

Benefits of doing a commentary

- This is our first foray into working with unadapted, authentic Latin text
- It is essential preparation for both independent work with Greek and for Greek Advanced modules (where this assessment type is common)
- It allows you to consolidate skills in working with grammar, syntax and linguistic features using handbooks and dictionaries, while also beginning to work with the wider literary and historical contexts of Greek texts

What text?

- In preparation for the commentary exercise, we will read a small section of unadapted Greek together in Week 9, taken from Longus' *Daphnis & Chloe*
- This will introduce you (further) to tools available and to typical content in a commentary. The length of text for the commentary should be about 10 lines
- The text for your own commentary can of course also be from Longus (I will give suggestions of suitable passages) but within reason you can pick another text as well – discuss your options with me no later than 24 April!

Choice of focus

- You may select your focus according to your own interest:
 - Some of you will be interested in the literary context, some in the grammar and syntax used, some in linguistic and metrical development
- State your focus clearly so as to manage reader expectation
 - Where appropriate, refer readers to other commentaries or scholarship that cover issues you won't deal with
- Issues any commentary must deal with:
 - Especially difficult and unusual phrases or content, serious problems in the text (e.g. missing lines or words)

Choice of structure

- The typical commentary on a Greek or Latin text works through the text line by line by pulling out key headwords (*lemmata*) for commentary
- This emphasises the key function of a commentary: a guide to the text one can consult to resolve specific passages
- The lemmatic structure is especially useful if you are interested in many and varied aspects of the text

Commentary writing

Published commentaries may be written on a range of different levels:

- for the learner, with a focus on getting through the text, *e.g.* details on how each sentence must be resolved, even if word order is different from what is natural in English or if there are multiple options
- for the advanced learner, adding further background and placing the text in a scholarly context – reporting rather than always adding to this context
- for the scholar, as a scholarly product with a consistent aim to add to scholarship

Sample online commentaries

Homer, Homer., & Jones, P. V. (2021). Odyssey. Books I and II. Oxford University Press. https://librarysearch.uwtsd.ac.uk/permalink/44WHELF_UWTSD/11c0l68/alma99100382612602421 This will be aimed at learners.

Plato., & Rijksbaron, A. (2007). Ion, or, On the Iliad. Brill. https://librarysearch.uwtsd.ac.uk/permalink/44WHELF_UWTSD/1pbrh66/alma99100107502302421 This will be a commentary for quite advanced users.

Euripides, Euripides., & Cropp, M. (2021). Iphigenia in Tauris. Oxford University Press. https://librarysearch.uwtsd.ac.uk/permalink/44WHELF_UWTSD/1pbrh66/alma99100382614002421 Again, a learner's commentary.

Commentary final notes

- **Format:** choice between lemmatic and thematic depending on your emphasis
- **Deadline:** 9 May 2022
- **Word count:** 1,500 words (includes translation, commentary text and references – but **not** the original text or bibliography)
- **Marking criteria:** generic L7 marking criteria apply. The guidance document now added to the module syllabus illustrates how they are interpreted for the commentary.