

2020 HSC Classical Greek Continuers Marking Guidelines

Section I — Prescribed Text

Question 1 (a)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates a clear and consistent understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of the extract • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the author's meaning 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates most of the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of most of the extract • Demonstrates a good understanding of the author's meaning 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author's meaning 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author's meaning 	1

Question 1 (b)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates a clear and consistent understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of the extract • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the author's meaning 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates most of the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of most of the extract • Demonstrates a good understanding of the author's meaning 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author's meaning 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author's meaning 	1

Question 2 (a) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains τὰ γεγενημένα περι Πύλον	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

As a result of a naval engagement in the harbour at Pylos the Athenians have succeeded in cutting off the Spartans stationed on Sphacteria.

Question 2 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains how the Athenians respond to the πρέσβεις	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

The Athenians were unwilling to make a treaty straight away, EITHER because they were urged on by Cleon not to do so, OR because they believed that the fact that they were holding Spartans prisoner on the island would enable them to secure a better deal in the future.

Question 2 (b) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Outlines the context	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

In the Assembly at Athens, Cleon has claimed it would be easy for a new force to capture the Spartans on Sphacteria. Nicias has challenged Cleon to go ahead and do so.

Question 2 (b) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear explanation of how Thucydides conveys dramatic tension in this extract Supports the answer with appropriate references to the extract 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some explanation of how Thucydides conveys dramatic tension in this extract Supports the answer with some appropriate references to the extract 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to explain how Thucydides conveys dramatic tension in this extract Makes some reference to the extract 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

Thucydides conveys dramatic tension by focusing on the actions and emotional responses of Cleon, Nicias and the Athenians. He exposes the initial bravado of Cleon, which changes to fear when he realises Nicias' challenge is a serious one (28.2). The emotional level is heightened when Nicias offers to surrender the command and calls for the support of the Athenians. A noisy climax is reached, emphasised by Thucydides' comment 'as is the way with a mob', and his description of the way in which the more Cleon tries to back out, the louder becomes the clamour for Nicias to hand over command and Cleon to sail (28.3).

Question 2 (c)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a thorough explanation of how Thucydides depicts the experience of battle in this extract Supports the answer with detailed references to the extract 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some explanation of how Thucydides depicts the experience of battle in this extract Supports the answer with some appropriate references to the extract 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes some general statements relating to the question Makes some reference to the extract 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

This extract depicts the experience of the Spartans on Sphacteria as they face an attack of a type to which they are unaccustomed. The sudden onrush of light-armed Athenian troops causes consternation among them: Thucydides provides a range of details of the physical conditions to explain this – clouds of dust, volleys of missiles coming from unseen hands, inadequate protection offered by felt caps, difficulties arising from javelin wounds and the inability to see ahead or hear commands. Thucydides shows that the overall effect on the Spartans is a complete collapse of their morale.

Question 3

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of Demosthenes as a military commander as depicted in Book IV Substantiates points with detailed references to the extract and to the rest of the text Composes a well-organised and coherent response 	9–10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear assessment of the effectiveness of Demosthenes as a military commander as depicted in Book IV Substantiates points with appropriate references to the extract and to the rest of the text Composes a structured response 	7–8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some assessment of the effectiveness of Demosthenes as a military commander as depicted in Book IV Provides some support with references to the extract and to the rest of the text Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information with clarity 	5–6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes some aspects of Demosthenes as a military commander as depicted in Book IV Provides limited support from the text Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies some isolated relevant information relating to the question Demonstrates a limited ability to structure ideas and information 	1–2

Answers could include:

- This extract highlights Demosthenes' tactical skills in the defence of the fortification at Pylos. He anticipates where the Spartan fleet will attempt to land and disposes his troops accordingly. He himself takes command of those posted at the weakest point, showing his leadership.
- Since his introduction in Ch 2 Demosthenes has been portrayed as a leader trusted by the Athenians due to his earlier success in Ambracia, and permitted free use of the fleet despite not being a general.
- Demosthenes had a clear plan to occupy Pylos (Ch 3) which he accomplishes despite opposition from the generals, thanks to a storm which forces the fleet to take shelter at Pylos. Demosthenes offers reasons justifying his choice of Pylos.
- Despite his failure to convince the generals and company commanders, the continued bad weather inspires the soldiers out of boredom to build fortifications in anticipation of the arrival of Spartan troops (Ch 4).
- In response to the arrival of the Spartan land forces, Demosthenes anticipating the arrival of the Spartan fleet summons the Athenian ships from Zacynthos, demonstrating his forethought.
- Having made preparations (Ch 9), Demosthenes addresses the troops (Ch 10), encouraging them to focus on their advantages drawing on battle experience. Without downplaying the difficulties, he is able to inspire the troops with confidence (Ch 11). He is proved right, as the Spartans attempt a landing just where he had predicted.
- Thucydides at this point has provided a portrayal of Demosthenes as a leader who has a definite plan, skills to implement it and the ability both to anticipate the enemy and inspire his men.

- The skills are further demonstrated in the assault on Sphacteria (Ch 29 ff). Demosthenes at first hesitates to attack the island because of its wooded nature, remembering his experience in Aetolia, but after a fire on the island he weighs up the situation and reacts accordingly.
- Demosthenes deploys his troops (Ch 32) with the intention of harassing the enemy, successfully causing a panic among the Spartans (Ch 34) who finally retreat to their fort (Ch 35). A stalemate (Ch 36) is resolved by Demosthenes recognising the merit of a suggestion from the Messenian general of a way to encircle the Spartans, which succeeds.
- Demosthenes, perceiving the advantage of taking the Spartans alive, stops the fighting and calls on the Spartans to surrender, which they do.
- Throughout the whole Pylos episode Thucydides shows how effectively Demosthenes demonstrates outstanding skills as a military commander in anticipating events and taking advantage of changing conditions.

Section II — Prescribed Text

Question 4 (a)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates a clear and consistent understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of the extract • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the author’s meaning 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates most of the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of most of the extract • Demonstrates a good understanding of the author’s meaning 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author’s meaning 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author’s meaning 	1

Question 4 (b)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates a clear and consistent understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of the extract • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the author’s meaning 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates most of the extract into fluent and idiomatic English • Demonstrates understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of most of the extract • Demonstrates a good understanding of the author’s meaning 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author’s meaning 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author’s meaning 	1

Question 5 (a) (i)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the context 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

Electra has just dismissed out of hand the old man’s suggestion that evidence at Agamemnon’s tomb points to Orestes’ return.

Question 5 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear explanation of why this extract is significant in the dramatic development of the play Supports the answer with appropriate references to the extract and the rest of the play 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some explanation of why this extract is significant in the dramatic development of the play Supports the answer with some references to the extract and the rest of the play 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

This extract is the moment when the old man realises that the stranger who has turned up is in fact Orestes. At this point Orestes is concealing his true identity beneath a mask of superiority (line 554) and sensitivity to the old man’s close inspection of his features (lines 558–9), while Electra remains unaware until convinced by the scar the old man has seen. Thus recognition takes place between the siblings, opening the way for their revenge to occur.

Question 5 (b)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear account of what this extract reveals about Electra’s state of mind Supports the answer with detailed reference to the extract 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some account of what this extract reveals about Electra’s state of mind Supports the answer with appropriate reference to the extract 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes some aspects of what this extract reveals about Electra’s state of mind Supports the answer with some reference to the extract 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies some aspects of Electra’s state of mind Makes limited reference to the extract 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

These lines bring out the anxiety Electra feels as she awaits news of Aegisthus’ fate. On hearing a cry from afar, the Chorus summons Electra from the house (750) where she has been waiting with a sword at the ready to kill herself if Orestes fails to kill Aegisthus. She is anxious to learn at once what has happened (751). The news is not clear; the sound suggests bloodshed (752) but comes from a distance (753–4). Electra, still uncertain (755), is beginning to suspect that the news will not be good. The confused din of shouting (756) convinces her that she must kill herself at once (757). Though urged by the Chorus (758) to wait for definite news, her three short phrases (759) reveal she is now in total despair, convinced by the delay that Orestes has failed.

Question 5 (c)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear explanation of how Euripides conveys the nature of the conflict between Clytemnestra and Electra at this point in the play Supports the answer with detailed reference to the extract 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an explanation of how Euripides conveys the nature of the conflict between Clytemnestra and Electra at this point in the play Supports the answer with appropriate reference to the extract 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to explain how Euripides conveys the nature of the conflict between Clytemnestra and Electra at this point in the play Supports the answer with some reference to the extract 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes some aspects of the conflict between Clytemnestra and Electra Makes limited reference to the extract 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

Euripides conveys the nature of the conflict between Clytemnestra and Electra by highlighting their fundamental disagreement over their family history and their own agendas. Their verbal sparring reveals Clytemnestra's regret (1109–10) and her fear of Orestes (1114–15) in the face of Electra's taunts (1111–13). The stichomythia (1116–21) concerning Aegisthus increases the pace of their exchange and reveals their entrenched positions and inability to make any compromise.

Question 6

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a thorough assessment of the consistency of the sentiments expressed in the extract with the rest of the play Substantiates points with detailed references to the extract and the rest of the text Composes a well-organised and coherent response 	9–10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a clear assessment of the consistency of the sentiments expressed in the extract with the rest of the play Substantiates points with appropriate references to the extract and the rest of the text Composes a structured response 	7–8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some assessment of the consistency of the sentiments expressed in the extract with the rest of the play Provides some support with references to the extract and the rest of the text Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information with clarity 	5–6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes some aspects of the sentiments expressed in the extract Provides limited support from the text Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies some isolated relevant information Demonstrates a limited ability to structure ideas and information 	1–2

Answers could include:

- This extract is the culmination of the scene in which Electra and Orestes arrange to kill Clytemnestra.
- Orestes, facing the prospect of killing his own mother, is hesitant, expressing doubt about the oracle (981), while Electra urges him not to be a coward (982) and spurs him on (984). Orestes (985–7) gives in to her prodding, but while acknowledging the will of the gods he recognises the horror of the deed and expresses ambivalence about the task.
- Electra’s determination to avenge her father’s death is motivated by resentment at her treatment by Aegisthus and Clytemnestra (130, 276–81).
- Orestes, when he first appears, declares his intention to kill his father’s murderers and is eager to know if Electra will assist (87 ff).
- In the recognition scene, Orestes addresses matter-of-fact questions to the old man, and Electra interrupts, saying she will arrange the killing of Clytemnestra (647), confirming her resolve. Electra again spurs Orestes on (668).
- While awaiting news of Aegisthus’ fate, Electra is in despair (759), but the Messenger’s description of the murder shows Orestes behaving resolutely (838 ff).
- After Clytemnestra is killed, Electra and Orestes both confront the reality of their deed, with Orestes questioning the reliability of the oracle of Apollo (1178–1232).
- The arrival of Castor and Pollux (1233) leads to the resolution of the play. The ambiguity of the revenge is reinforced when Castor lays the blame on Apollo who will ultimately accept the blame and acquit Orestes at his trial for matricide (1266–70).
- Up until Clytemnestra’s murder Electra has shown consistent resolve to proceed with revenge. Her words over Aegisthus’ corpse and her confrontation with her mother underline the extent of her resentment and anger.

- While Orestes showed no ambivalence about killing Aegisthus, he has shown reluctance with regard to the matricide, but nevertheless carries out the deed, egged on by Electra.
- Only after the murder of Clytemnestra do they display any sense of regret at what they have done: Orestes' doubts about the oracle of Apollo are confirmed by Castor, and Electra realises the full horror and consequences of their deed. Thus the ending of the play reveals a change in their sentiments.

Section III — Unseen Texts

Question 7 (a)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the part of speech 	1

Sample answer:

Relative pronoun

Question 7 (b)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains the case 	1

Sample answer:

Genitive depending on ὑπερ.

Question 7 (c)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains the subjunctive mood 	1

Sample answer:

Exhortation

Question 7 (d)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates the extract into clear and fluent English • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of the extract • Demonstrates a clear understanding of the overall sense of the extract 	9–10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates most of the extract into clear and fluent English • Demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of most of the extract • Demonstrates an understanding of the overall sense of the extract 	7–8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of some of the extract • Demonstrates some understanding of the content of the extract 	5–6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates parts of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates basic understanding of the content of the extract 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates isolated words and phrases into English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the content of the extract 	1–2

Question 7 (e)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains briefly how Orestes justifies his intended action 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

Orestes says that he was betrayed by his father's brother even though he had acted rightly.

Question 8 (a)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains the genitive case 	1

Sample answer:

Genitive absolute

Question 8 (b)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains the optative mood 	1

Sample answer:

Temporal clause depending on ἕως.

Question 8 (c)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the tense 	1

Sample answer:

Pluperfect

Question 8 (d)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translates the extract into clear and fluent English Demonstrates a clear understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of the extract Demonstrates a clear understanding of the overall sense of the extract 	9–10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translates most of the extract into clear and fluent English Demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of most of the extract Demonstrates an understanding of the overall sense of the extract 	7–8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translates some of the extract into fluent English Demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between the words and structures of some of the extract Demonstrates some understanding of the content of the extract 	5–6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translates parts of the extract into fluent English Demonstrates basic understanding of the content of the extract 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translates isolated words and phrases into English Demonstrates a limited understanding of the content of the extract 	1–2

Question 8 (e)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies two points 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides some relevant information 	1

Sample answer:

- They have done all they could
- They have returned Athenian captives.

Answers could include:

- They have withdrawn their troops from Thrace
- They want Pylos to be restored to them
- They will settle for the removal of the Messenians, Helots and deserters from Pylos.

2020 HSC Classical Greek Continuers Mapping Grid

Section I — Prescribed Text

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
1 (a)	5	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H1.3
1 (b)	5	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H1.3
2 (a) (i)	2	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H2.3
2 (a) (ii)	2	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H2.3
2 (b) (i)	2	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H2.3
2 (b) (ii)	4	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H2.2
2 (c)	5	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H2.2
3	10	Thucydides IV	H1.1, H2.3, H3.1, H3.2

Section II — Prescribed Text

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
4 (a)	5	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H1.3
4 (b)	5	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H1.3
5 (a) (i)	2	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H2.3
5 (a) (ii)	3	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H3.2
5 (b)	5	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H2.2
5 (c)	5	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H2.2, H3.1
6	10	Euripides <i>Electra</i>	H1.1, H2.3, H3.1

Section III — Unseen Texts

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
7 (a)	1	Euripides <i>Orestes</i>	H1.1, H2.1
7 (b)	1	Euripides <i>Orestes</i>	H1.1, H2.1
7 (c)	1	Euripides <i>Orestes</i>	H1.1, H2.1
7 (d)	10	Euripides <i>Orestes</i>	H1.1, H1.2, H1.3
7 (e)	2	Euripides <i>Orestes</i>	H1.1, H3.1
8 (a)	1	Thucydides V	H1.1, H2.1
8 (b)	1	Thucydides V	H1.1, H2.1
8 (c)	1	Thucydides V	H1.1, H2.1
8 (d)	10	Thucydides V	H1.1, H1.2, H1.3
8 (e)	2	Thucydides V	H1.1, H3.1