NSW Education Standards Authority

2024 HSC Classical Greek Continuers Marking Guidelines

Section I — Prescribed Text

Question 1 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• 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
• 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 sound understanding of the author's meaning	3–4
• Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author's meaning	2
• Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author's meaning	1

Question 1 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• 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
• 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 sound understanding of the author's meaning	3–4
• Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author's meaning	2
• Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author's meaning	1

Question 2 (a) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains how Socrates has previously refuted the notion that it is just to harm one's enemies	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Socrates has refuted this argument by showing that when people are harmed, they become worse and that it cannot be the function of a just person to make anyone worse.

Question 2 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a clear explanation of Socrates' purpose in referring to the individuals	3
• Provides some explanation of Socrates' purpose in referring to the individuals	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Socrates refers to two groups of people, the first group consisting of men who are authorities of popular morality – Simonides, Bias and Pittacus, the second consisting of powerful and unscrupulous men, Periander, Perdicas, Xerxes and Ismenius. He refers to the first group to absolve them of responsibility for a definition of justice that Socrates regards as erroneous, these wise men would never say that it is just to harm anyone. Socrates introduces the second group to provide a plausible, alternative source for an erroneous definition of justice since they are the kind of men who would say that it is just to benefit friends and harm enemies.

Question 2 (a) (iii)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides an explanation of how this extract constitutes a satisfactory ending to the discussion	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

At the end of this discussion Polemarchus and Socrates are still on terms of friendship and allegiance (eg, μαχούμεθα… κοινῇ, ἕτοιμος εἰμι κοινωνεῖν) and Socrates' question at the end of the extract prepares for the next stage of the debate.

Answers could include:

Polemarchus' statement that Socrates is speaking very truthfully (Ἀληθέστατα… λέγεις) about the source of this definition shows his acknowledgement that his argument is not sustainable. This allows Socrates to seek an alternative definition of justice.

Question 2 (b) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies what was said to prompt the remark	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Polemarchus affirms Socrates' argument as being very clear. Immediately prior to this, Socrates has said that rulers are not infallible and so may make laws which if obeyed actually, but unintentionally, harm the ruler and are therefore unjust according to Thrasymachus' definition.

Question 2 (b) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains why Cleitophon says this	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Cleitophon is making a sarcastic comment ('of course, if you are his witness') in reference to Polemarchus' tendency to yield to Socrates.

Question 2 (b) (iii)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a clear explanation of the function of this scene in this debate	4
• Provides an explanation of the function of this scene in this debate	3
• Demonstrates some understanding of the function of this scene in this debate	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

This extract forms an interlude in the debate between Socrates and Thrasymachus. This has the function of allowing other characters to restate and clarify Thrasymachus' argument for the readers' benefit. Polemarchus highlights the two main aspects of Thrasymachus' argument that it is just for the ruled to do what is prescribed by the rulers even if bad for the rulers, and that justice is the advantage of the stronger. Polemarchus then highlights the inconsistency between these two positions, which Cleitophon clarifies by saying that justice is doing what the stronger believes is to his advantage. This becomes a new starting point for Socrates to examine in the debate that follows.

Question 3

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed assessment of the extent to which Thrasymachus provides the most compelling definition of justice • Substantiates points with detailed references to the text • Composes a logical and cohesive response	9–10
• Provides a clear assessment of the extent to which Thrasymachus provides the most compelling definition of justice • Substantiates points with appropriate references to the text • Composes a cohesive response	7–8
• Provides some assessment of the extent to which Thrasymachus provides the most compelling definition of justice • Provides some support with references to the text • Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information with clarity	5–6
• Makes some general statements about Thrasymachus' definition of justice • Provides limited support from the text • Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information	3–4
• Identifies some isolated information relating to the question • Demonstrates a limited ability to structure ideas and information	1–2

Answers could include:

- Thrasymachus' argument is a radical and realist one that justice is the advantage of the stronger. This is at odds with the traditional definitions.
- When he is introduced, he is likened to a beast ready to tear his opponents apart. This simile establishes him as a formidable opponent for Socrates, priming the reader for a compelling confrontation. From the very outset he attacks Socrates' elenchus method and in particular his reluctance to offer answers himself.
- Thrasymachus, unlike Socrates' other two interlocutors, is prepared to provide a concrete definition of justice rather than just examples of just conduct. eg He applies justice to real world examples such as the unjust man often prospering at the expense of the just man.
- Thrasymachus elaborates upon his argument, rather than relying on Socrates to tease it out, and provides his own clear definition with confidence. For example, he extends his argument into the political sphere, introducing rulers and tyrants as examples of the stronger.
- Thrasymachus, unlike the others, is prepared to use apt analogies (as Socrates does) to bolster his points.
- Cephalus, the old man content with his riches and religion, offers a traditional definition of justice which is refuted by Socrates quite easily.
- His son Polemarchus builds upon his discussion by defending the use of Simonides as an authority on justice which is also refuted. Both merely parrot traditional ideas, whereas Thrasymachus is original in his definition.

Section II — Prescribed Text

Question 4 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• 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
• 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 sound understanding of the author's meaning	3–4
• Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author's meaning	2
• Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author's meaning	1

Question 4 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• 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
• 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 sound understanding of the author's meaning	3–4
• Translates some of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates some understanding of the author's meaning	2
• Translates some structures into accurate English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the author's meaning	1

Question 5 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed analysis of how Euripides increases the emotional intensity • Supports the answer with detailed references to the extract	6
• Provides a clear analysis of how Euripides increases the emotional intensity • Supports the answer with references to the extract	4–5
• Provides some analysis of how Euripides increases the emotional intensity • Supports the answer with some reference to the extract	3
• Demonstrates some understanding about the emotional tone • Makes limited reference to the extract	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Answers could include:

379–391
- This extract consists of the lines immediately before Alcestis dies in the second episode.
- The transition from stichomythia to antilabe increases the pace and intensity of the scene (just prior to Alcestis' death).
- Alcestis' composed nobility as she faces death contrasts with the desperation of Admetus.
- Alcestis' direct address to the children (ὦ τέκν' 379) heightens the tragedy of the event.
- Admetus exclamation of οἴμοι (380) indicates his helplessness.
- There are several instances of Admetus repeating words pleadingly and in desperation (ἄγου 382, βλέψον 389, ἀπωλόμην 386 and 391), which indicate his heartbreak.
- Line 382 provides an instance of intense tragic irony, with Admetus begging for the death that he has tried so hard to avoid.
- Alcestis says farewell to her children, χαίρετε (389) and to her husband, χαῖρε (391).

Question 5 (b) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains how the phrase reveals the slave's misunderstanding of the situation	2
• Provide some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

The phrase 'having learned of our misfortune' reveals that the slave believes that Heracles is aware of Alcestis' passing, but this is not the case.

Question 5 (b) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a clear explanation of the comic elements in this extract	3
• Provides some explanation of the comic elements in this extract	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

The comparison of the mighty Heracles to a dog with no artistic taste (ἄμουσ᾽ ὑλακτῶν) adds humour to the depiction of the great hero. The comic exaggeration of the effect of the wine on Heracles, setting him 'on fire' (φλὸξ οἴνου) also serves to present Heracles humorously. The incessant complaints as part of a servant's monologue are also reminiscent of comedy.

Question 5 (c)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a clear explanation of how the extract lays the foundation for the resolution of the plot • Supports the answer with appropriate references to the extract	4
• Provides an explanation of how the extract lays the foundation for the resolution of the plot • Supports the answer with some reference to the extract	3
• Demonstrates some understanding about the extract/the plot • Makes limited reference to the extract	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

At this late stage in the play Heracles has rescued Alcestis and is attempting to present her back to Admetus as a surprise gift in repayment for his hospitality. The more insistent Heracles becomes, the more he is met with Admetus' increasing reluctance to bring the woman into his house. This reluctance is displayed when he refuses to touch her '(οὐκ ἂν θίγοιμι 1114)' and complains that he is being forced to do this against his will (ἄναξ, βιάζῃ μ' οὐ θέλοντα δρᾶν τάδε 1116). This is shown to be deeply ironic when Alcestis, his dear wife, is eventually revealed. There is dramatic tension in the extract as we wonder whether Admetus will receive the woman into his house. This tension is resolved when he finally agrees to take the woman's hand. So this extract is foundational to the return of Alcestis to Admetus' home, which fulfils, as the audience may recall, Apollo's prediction that Heracles will return Alcestis to Admetus.

Question 6

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed assessment of the importance of *xenia* in the play *Alcestis* • Substantiates points with detailed references to the text • Composes a logical and cohesive response	9–10
• Provides a clear assessment of the importance of *xenia* in the play *Alcestis* • Substantiates points with references to the text • Composes a cohesive response	7–8
• Provides some assessment of the importance of *xenia* in the play *Alcestis* • Provides some support with references to the text • Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information with clarity	5–6
• Makes some general statements about the importance of *xenia* • Provides limited support from the text • Demonstrates some ability to structure ideas and information	3–4
• Identifies some isolated information relating to the question • Demonstrates a limited ability to structure ideas and information	1–2

Answers could include:

- The recurring instances of *xenia* (hospitality) in the text indicate that it acts as a catalyst for the major developments in the plot.
- The crisis of the play is set in motion by Apollo who has been a guest of Admetus, whom he calls his host (*xenos*).
- Apollo – forewarns that one will come from Thrace, having been entertained as Admetus' guest, who will resolve the crisis.
- Admetus' insists on welcoming Heracles as a guest into his house despite it being in deep mourning. When his actions are questioned, his explanation of the importance he attaches to *xenia* indicates how strongly he is attached to its imperatives, even in the midst of the most horrendous grief.
- The resolution of the plot comes about through the decision of Admetus to honour the *xenia* with Heracles, even though Heracles is willing to turn to another *xenos* and the chorus urges Admetus not to take Heracles into his house.
- Heracles performs his ultimate gesture of *xenia*, the rescue of Alcestis, partly due to his shame at the way he has exploited his status as a *xenos* in Admetus's mourning house.
- Heracles tells Admetus to continue to treat his guests well in his parting speech.
- Heracles complains about Admetus' treatment of a *xenos*, reproaching him for his lack of truthfulness about the death of his wife. In reply, Admetus explains that he was afraid that Heracles would leave, perhaps indicating the complexity of *xenia* as a concept.

Section III — Unseen Texts

Question 7 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies the Greek tense	1

Sample answer:

Perfect tense

Question 7 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains the use of the genitive case	1

Sample answer:

Dependent on ὕπο (postposition)

Question 7 (c)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies the Greek case	1

Sample answer:

Dative case

Question 7 (d)

Criteria	Marks
• 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
• 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
• 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
• Translates parts of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates basic understanding of the content of the extract	3–4
• Translates isolated words and phrases into English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the content of the extract	1–2

Question 7 (e)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies similarities between the sentiments of Polyxena and those of Alcestis	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Polyxena expresses the necessity of her death and points out the nobility of her lineage and her prospects in earlier days.

Question 8 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies the Greek tense	1

Sample answer:

Aorist tense

Question 8 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies the Greek mood	1

Sample answer:

Subjunctive mood

Question 8 (c)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains the use of the optative mood	1

Sample answer:

Optative in a conditional clause

Question 8 (d)

Criteria	Marks
• 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
• 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
• 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
• Translates parts of the extract into fluent English • Demonstrates basic understanding of the content of the extract	3–4
• Translates isolated words and phrases into English • Demonstrates a limited understanding of the content of the extract	1–2

Question 8 (e)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies the typical elements of the Socratic method used in this extract	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Socrates questions his interlocutor to arrive at a precise definition of a concept. Socrates also makes use of hypothetical questions to aid his investigation.

2024 HSC Classical Greek Continuers Mapping Grid

Section I — Prescribed Text

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
1 (a)	5	Plato, *Republic* I	H1.1, H1.3
1 (b)	5	Plato, *Republic* I	H1.1, H1.3
2 (a) (i)	2	Plato, *Republic* I	H2.2, H2.3
2 (a) (ii)	3	Plato, *Republic* I	H2.2, H2.3
2 (a) (iii)	2	Plato, *Republic* I	H2.2, H2.3
2 (b) (i)	2	Plato, *Republic* I	H2.2, H2.3
2 (b) (ii)	2	Plato, *Republic* I	H2.2, H2.3
2 (b) (iii)	4	Plato, *Republic* I	H2.2, H2.3
3	10	Plato, *Republic* I	H3.1, H3.2

Section II — Prescribed Text

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

Section III — Unseen Texts

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
7 (a)	1	Euripides, *Hecuba*	H2.1
7 (b)	1	Euripides, *Hecuba*	H2.1
7 (c)	1	Euripides, *Hecuba*	H2.1
7 (d)	10	Euripides, *Hecuba*	H1.1, H1.2, H1.3
7 (e)	2	Euripides, *Hecuba*	H1.1, H1.2
8 (a)	1	Plato, *Meno*	H2.1
8 (b)	1	Plato, *Meno*	H2.1
8 (c)	1	Plato, *Meno*	H2.1
8 (d)	10	Plato, *Meno*	H1.1, H1.2, H1.3
8 (e)	2	Plato, *Meno*	H1.1, H1.2