

TRANSLATION AND ESSAY TIPS FOR C.E. AND SCHOLARSHIP

Essay writing tips

- i. Always write an essay plan before you start to remind yourself of the main points of the myth and check you have the order of events correct. Imagine that your examiner has no idea of the story so you must explain it in as much detail as you can.
- ii. Don't worry if you can't remember all of the complex Greek names in the story. Usually it will be enough to describe the character or give their job rather than name them, for example, King Minos could be described as "the king who owned the Minotaur" or Poseidon could be described as "god of the sea."
- iii. If your story includes a monster remember to give a brief description of it, for example: "The Minotaur was a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man."
- iv. Always read your essay back afterwards to ensure that your English makes sense. Check it against your plan to make sure you haven't left anything out.
- v. There are always two parts to every Greek myth question. Part 1 is worth 8 marks and is where you should give the main facts of the story. Part 2 is worth 2 marks and is always a personal response style question for example, "What qualities did the Greeks show in capturing Troy?" Try to answer this part as fully as possible giving at least two points in your answer.

Don't forget that however detailed your Part 1 you can only get full marks for the essay if you remember to answer Part 2 as well.

Translations and comprehensions

Here are some tips to help you tackle translations and comprehensions:

- i. There is almost always a line or two of English at the top of each Latin passage which gives you an idea of what the Latin passage is about. Make sure you read this carefully.
- ii. Check to see how much vocabulary help you have. Remember that if a word is supplied in an exam vocabulary list it is usually underlined in the Latin passage too.
- iii. Read through the Latin passage in your head before you start to write. This will help you to focus and alleviate any panic. You should start to recognise some of the Latin words at this stage which will help things to fall into place.
- iv. Highlight or underline any verbs in the passage. These are usually found at the end of sentences, before commas, semi-colons and the word et (and). Once you have found the verbs things will seem less confusing, for example:

puella per viam ambulavit et in oppidum currit. (See translation at number v below).

- v. Find any prepositions in the passage. These are words which tell us the position of something for example:

sub=under
in=in/into
ex=out of

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Prepositions are always followed by a noun (name of something e.g. book, tree) so once you have found a preposition put a bracket around it and the noun which follows it. This will help to make the Latin seem less confusing because you can start to see words which belong together, for example:

puella (per viam) ambulavit et (in oppidum) currit.

The girl walked along the road and ran into the town.

vi. In most comprehensions there is usually a line reference given to help you work out where to find the answer to each question. Make sure you check this carefully.

vii. Check how many marks each comprehension question is worth. A two mark question will require a more detailed answer than a one mark question.