Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit

State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination
Sample Brief

Ancient Greek

Research Study – Text in Context

Higher Level and Ordinary Level

200 marks

1. Information for candidates, teachers and school authority

The assessment of Leaving Certificate Ancient Greek comprises of two components:

1. final written examination
2. Research Study – Text in Context

The Research Study is worth 200 marks, which is 40% of the overall marks for Leaving Certificate Ancient Greek. The remaining 300 marks (60%) are for the final written examination.

Coursework must be completed in full and strict compliance with the procedures and conditions outlined in this coursework brief and in the State Examinations Commission (SEC) Coursework Rules and Procedures.

The coursework must be carried out and submitted to the class teacher and will then be submitted to the SEC (see **Section 3**).

The authentication process

The authentication process is put in place by the SEC to ensure **the integrity of the examination process** and to ensure **fairness and inter-candidate equity**. The candidate, class teacher and school authority all have a responsibility to ensure that the ongoing preparation of coursework and that the work ultimately submitted to the SEC is the candidate's own individual authentic work. The SEC Coursework Rules and Procedures contains comprehensive information on the authentication process that must be read and adhered to. This brief contains the subject specific information and requirements for the completion of the Research Study for Leaving Certificate Ancient Greek.
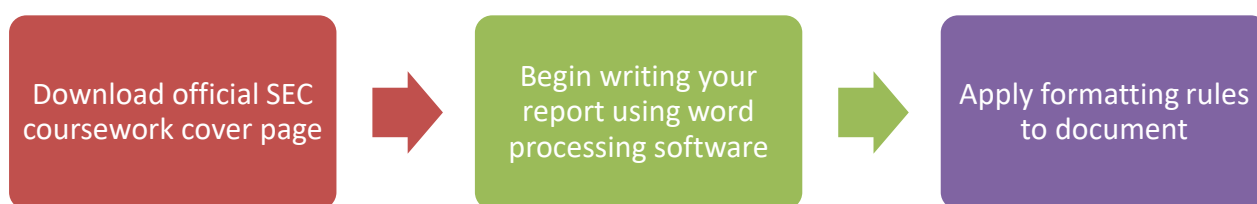
It is fully expected that candidates will carry out research and investigation as part of their coursework. To fully comply with these SEC Coursework Rules and Procedures, candidates must reference and acknowledge their research sources, including any use of AI, as outlined in **Appendices 1 and 2** of the SEC Coursework Rules and Procedures. To include material that is not created by the candidate and not properly referenced will be considered plagiarism. This is considered to be cheating. This is a breach of regulations and will be investigated by the SEC - see **Section 15** of the SEC Coursework Rules and Procedures. It is the responsibility of the candidate, the class teacher, and the school authority to ensure that the work being presented is the candidate's individual authentic work.

2. Creating your digital report

It is the responsibility of you, the candidate, to create and manage your digital document for completing the report. The SEC provide a cover page in Microsoft Word format (.docx) and this can be downloaded from: [Examination Information - State Examination Commission.](#)

You must complete the SEC cover page with all relevant information and it must be incorporated as the first page of your document. The SEC do not provide a submission booklet or template for the report so it is your responsibility to ensure that your report is structured and formatted according to the instructions in this brief (see **Sections 2**, **3 and 6**).

The final version of the document must be converted to PDF format before it is submitted to the SEC. You may use any suitable word processing software to complete your report, provided that it has the functionality to convert the document to PDF format once completed. It is strongly recommended that you make and regularly update a backup copy of your digital report, which can be used in the event of loss or corruption.

Download official SEC coursework cover page → Begin writing your report using word processing software → Apply formatting rules to document

Report formatting rules

The report you produce must adhere to the following formatting rules:

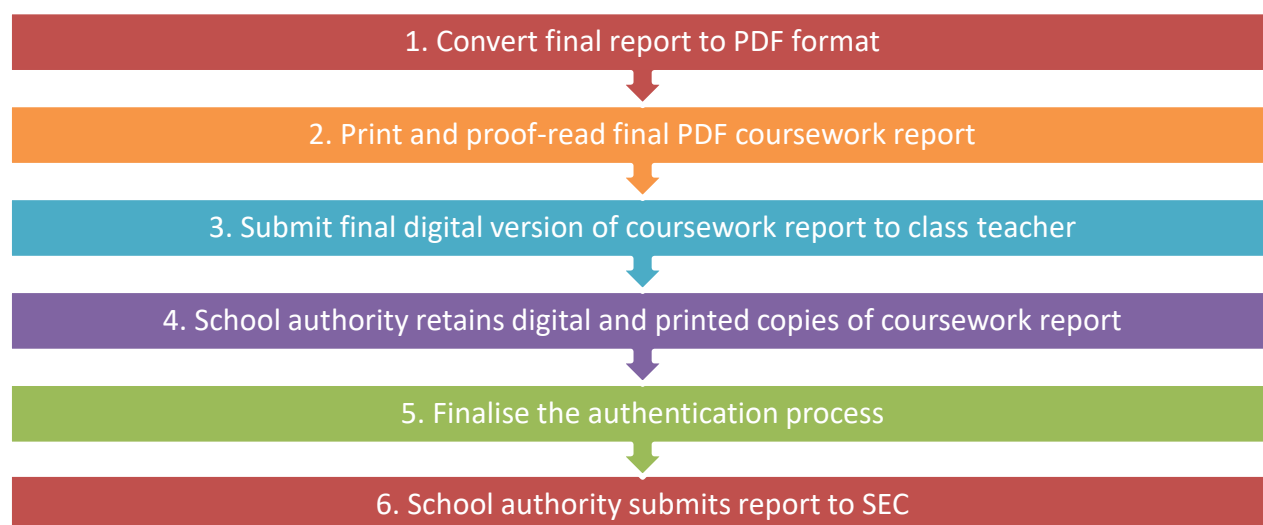| Section headings	Each section should be named and appear on a new page of the report. Refer to **Section 6** for section heading names. The headings should use the following font: Arial, black, font size 14 and bold.
Main body text	Arial, black, font size 12 with 1.5 line spacing.
Text editing features permitted	Bold, italics, underline, numbering, and bullets.
Text editing features **not** permitted	Coloured text (black text only), highlighted text, different fonts (Arial only).
Page orientation	Portrait only.
Page numbering	Bottom-centre of each page.
Page margins	Left margin 20 mm Right margin 20 mm Top margin 20 mm Bottom margin 20 mm
Images, tables, graphs	Refer to **Section 6.**

A word count is prescribed for the report and this must be adhered to. If material is presented in excess of the prescribed word count, you may lose marks.

3. Submitting your coursework report

Once you have completed your report on or before the completion date, you must adhere to the following steps:

1. Convert your report to PDF format. This facility is available in most word processing software.

2. Print the PDF version of your report and proof-read it to ensure that all of your work is visible. Any work that is not visible on this printed copy will likewise not be visible to examiners marking the work digitally and can therefore not gain any marks.

3. Once you are satisfied that the PDF copy of the report you have printed is complete, you should submit the digital version of the report to your class teacher. A Schools Portal circular issues from the SEC each year outlining how you should correctly name your PDF file, and you can consult with your class teacher on how to do this.

4. A printed version of your final report and a digital copy of the report should be retained safely by the school authority until the appeals process has been completed.

5. You must finalise the authentication process to confirm that the coursework report being submitted is your own individual authentic work by signing the SEC Authentication Form P.2. This will be provided by your class teacher. Your class teacher and school principal will also sign this form to confirm that you adhered to the authentication process.

6. The school authority will submit your coursework through the Schools Portal. The SEC will issue a circular each year with specific information regarding those subjects whose coursework is submitted digitally through the Schools Portal.

Summary of steps in completing and submitting your coursework report

1. Convert final report to PDF format
2. Print and proof-read final PDF coursework report
3. Submit final digital version of coursework report to class teacher
4. School authority retains digital and printed copies of coursework report
5. Finalise the authentication process
6. School authority submits report to SEC

4. Completing your Research Study

This assessment component, Research Study – Text in Context, aims to develop a spirit of enquiry about the significance and broader context of the language and literature that is encountered in the classroom. The Research Study requires you to investigate, evaluate and report on a language-centred topic of your own choosing that is anchored in the specification.

The Research Study process is a self-directed learning experience in close-reading. It should involve the six different stages stated below and it is envisaged that it will take up to 20 hours to complete. While these stages are linear in nature, there is flexibility within the process to allow you to revisit stages as required and in such a way that may make for a more fluid or integrated experience.

Stage 1: Getting started with the brief and identifying an area for your individual topic

Stage 2: Delving deeper into your individual topic by deciding on a focused aspect

Stage 3: Planning and researching your individual topic

Stage 4: Selecting relevant and reliable sources

Stage 5: Writing and reviewing your Research Study Report

Stage 6: Reflection

In the Research Study Report you present research findings to demonstrate the extent to which you have been able to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of your topic
- research, select, organise and process information from sources about your topic
- understand the role of sources and use of evidence to form judgements and conclusions
- demonstrate critical and creative thinking
- employ language-based analysis in your argument
- follow a coherent approach and structure in the presentation of your research findings
- appreciate the broader context and significance of your chosen topic.

You must carry out your Research Study on an individual topic that has been chosen based on the framework provided in **Section 5** below.

To explore your individual topic in a broader context, you should choose a significant but manageable amount of Ancient Greek text. Examples of texts include: a short extract from a longer piece of prose or verse, a selection of poems, an inscription, graffiti, etc. Examples of broader contexts include: literary, linguistic, artistic, historical, cultural, social, political, philosophical, religious, personal significance, etc.

Regardless of your choice of text or context, language-based analysis should be central to both the Research Study process and the Research Study Report.

For further information on completing the Research Study, see NCCA Curriculum Online:
https://curriculumonline.ie/senior-cycle/senior-cycle-subjects/ancient-greek/

5. Research Study – Sample Framework

Submit a Research Study Report based on the following:

> "Why does tragedy exist? Because you are full of rage.
>
> Why are you full of rage? Because you are full of grief." [1]

> - Anne Carson, Classics Professor

For this examination year, candidates should research a language-centred topic that relates to **at least one** aspect mentioned in the above quotation.

For this examination year, it is important to note that candidates are **not permitted** to include research on this year's Capstone Text in their Research Study Report. This exclusion pertains to the Capstone Text in its entirety and not only the sections prescribed in Ancient Greek and in translation.

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[1] Carson, A. (2008) *Grief Lessons: Four Plays by Euripides.* New York: New York Review of Books.

6. Research Study Report – structure

The structure of the Research Study Report (RSR) should consist of the following four sections, each with a suggested word count range. You should include these four section headings in your RSR. Indicative content to be included in each section is detailed below, followed by mark allocations.

Overall Word Count:

You must ensure that the overall word count does not exceed 1700 words; otherwise, you may lose marks. The overall word count does **not** include source information contained in the Research Findings (Section B), such as quotations of Ancient Greek text, in-text citations of sources, or sources listed in the Bibliography (Section D).

Section A: Rationale and Approach   **(100 – 200 words)**

A rationale for the selection of your chosen topic is presented here. This section should include considerations such as:

- Why this topic was chosen
- How this topic relates to the brief
- Identifying the Ancient Greek text(s) and context(s) being explored
- What research question(s) the RSR intends to answer
- The aims of the Research Study.

Section B: Research Findings   **(1200 – 1500 words)**

In this section you present your research findings. You should use a format suited to the type of research conducted and the conclusions that you reached during the close-reading process. This format should have a clear structure, which may involve an extended essay, paragraphs, sub-headings, bullet points, diagrams, images, etc.

Indicative content to include in this section:

- Clearly developed points stemming from a depth of relevant knowledge and understanding
- In-depth analysis of Ancient Greek text
- Citation of a variety of quality sources
- An awareness of the broader context of your chosen topic
- A case for the significance of your chosen topic
- Achievement of your aims
- Originality and creativity of critical thinking
- Conclusion of discussion, analysis, arguments, etc.

Section C: Review and Reflection **(100 – 200 words)**

This section offers a space to reflect on the Research Study experience and to review the process undertaken, and it might include considerations, such as:

- Assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the approach taken and final product
- Reflection on self-directed learning
- How this experience may have benefited you as a language learner
- Lessons learned that can be applied to future research in Classics.

Section D: Bibliography

This section will not be included in the overall word count.

In the Bibliography, you list the full reference information for all sources that contributed to the research and write-up of your RSR. The Bibliography should include sources cited in Section B and others sources you encountered during research that contributed to your research findings. The standard and consistency of referencing in the RSR will be assessed in this section.

In this section, all sources should be listed using a referencing convention (such as, Harvard, APA, MLA, etc.). Examples of different types of sources include: publications (books, translations of primary sources, professional journals, etc.); online sources; images; podcasts and other types of media; any material generated using artificial intelligence (AI) software or applications; material from specialist organisations and relevant individuals. To include such material without properly referencing the source will be considered plagiarism. In addition, the copying from, or reproduction of, material from such sources will be also considered plagiarism.

7. Research Study Report - mark allocations

The Research Study Report (RSR) carries a total of 200 marks. When your work is marked, assessment criteria will be applied, and marks will be allocated to the various elements of the RSR as outlined below:

The weighting and marks are proposed as follows:

Sample mark allocations:			
Section A	Rationale and Approach	7.5%	15 marks
Section B	Research Findings	60%	120 marks
Section C	Review and Reflection	7.5%	15 marks
Section D	Bibliography	5%	10 marks
*Overall Coherence	Communication & Structure	20%	40 marks

*Overall Coherence is not a distinct section of the RSR. Marks awarded for Overall Coherence are based on the quality of organisation, communication, and cohesion of the material presented in the RSR as specified by the annual Research Study Brief.