



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2025

Marking Scheme

Classical Studies

Ordinary Level

Note to teachers and students on the use of published marking schemes

Marking schemes published by the State Examinations Commission are not intended to be standalone documents. They are an essential resource for examiners who receive training in the correct interpretation and application of the scheme. This training involves, among other things, marking samples of student work and discussing the marks awarded, so as to clarify the correct application of the scheme. The work of examiners is subsequently monitored by Advising Examiners to ensure consistent and accurate application of the marking scheme. This process is overseen by the Chief Examiner, usually assisted by a Chief Advising Examiner. The Chief Examiner is the final authority regarding whether or not the marking scheme has been correctly applied to any piece of candidate work.














Marking schemes are working documents. While a draft marking scheme is prepared in advance of the examination, the scheme is not finalised until examiners have applied it to candidates' work and the feedback from all examiners has been collated and considered in light of the full range of responses of candidates, the overall level of difficulty of the examination and the need to maintain consistency in standards from year to year. This published document contains the finalised scheme, as it was applied to all candidates' work.

In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with their Advising Examiners when in doubt.

Future Marking Schemes

Assumptions about future marking schemes on the basis of past schemes should be avoided. While the underlying assessment principles remain the same, the details of the marking of a particular type of question may change in the context of the contribution of that question to the overall examination in a given year. The Chief Examiner in any given year has the responsibility to determine how best to ensure the fair and accurate assessment of candidates' work and to ensure consistency in the standard of the assessment from year to year. Accordingly, aspects of the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice.

Online Marking Annotations

Symbol	Description	Denoting
	Vertical Wavy	A page/ section without candidate material has been seen by the examiner
NR	No Response	A full question that has not been not attempted
	Tick (blank)	A page has been read and any candidate material has been considered towards the mark awarded for the relevant question
	X	Incorrect material
	Tick with number	The number of marks awarded (e.g. 5 marks)
	Zero	Zero marks awarded
	Square brackets	Material counted towards each unit of development (point) for Questions 11b - 16
	P1, P2, P3, P4	Each unit of development (point) awarded marks in Questions 11b-16
	Q	The mark for Overall Quality in Questions 11b-16
	Arrow	When an answer continues onto additional or supplementary pages
	K	The mark awarded for the RSR Knowledge Descriptor
	A	The mark awarded for the RSR Analysis Descriptor
	E	The mark awarded for the RSR Evidence Descriptor
	OC	The mark awarded for the RSR Overall Coherence Descriptor

Research Study Report 2025

Section A Rationale & Approach (10 marks)	Clear engagement 6 – 10	Engagement is lacking 0 – 5	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline of project aim Link with prescribed topic Overview of research approach and/or sources **All three points not required for full marks NB: 10 marks, requires specific points related to project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempt made to outline aim, link with prescribed topic, or gives an overview of research approach/ sources 	
Section B Extended Essay - <i>Knowledge/ Understanding</i> (20 marks)	Thorough 16 – 20	Basic 9 – 15	Very Basic 0 – 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of accurate knowledge that is in-depth or wide ranging, but at times lacks relevance to chosen topic. Demonstrates a very good understanding of the chosen topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes knowledge that indicates attempts at research, but has inconsistencies in accuracy or relevance to chosen topic Demonstrates a good understanding of the chosen topic at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains only generic or superficial information related to chosen topic, prescribed topic, or field of Classics Does not convey an overall understanding of the chosen topic
Section B Extended Essay - <i>Analysis/ Critical thinking</i> (20 marks)	Thorough 16 – 20	Basic 9 – 15	Very Basic 0 – 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis is logically argued with developed points Demonstrates good to very good critical thinking skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis is generic and lacks development Demonstrates critical thinking skills at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts at analysis, though mostly unsuccessful Does not engage with analysis/critical thinking
Section B Extended Essay - <i>Evidence/ Research</i> (20 marks)	Thorough 16 – 20	Basic 9 – 15	Very Basic 0 – 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources included as part of discussion / development of points, where relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources referred to in essay, where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources included only in bibliography

Research Study Report 2025

Section C Review & Reflection (10 marks)	Clear engagement 6 – 10	Engagement is lacking 0 – 5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of project • Reflection on significance of research / project • Self-reflection on research / writing process **All three points not required for full marks NB: 10 marks, requires specific points related to project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt made to review research/ writing process or reflect on learning

Overall Coherence <i>Communication & Structure</i> (20 marks)	Mostly coherent 16 – 20	Lacking coherence 9 – 15	Incoherent 0 – 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, well presented, with an overarching structure and language that is easy to follow, though could be edited to improve its overall coherence. • RSR aim partially achieved. • Satisfies the criteria as stated in the 2025 RSR Brief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At times well presented, with attempts made to apply some structure and an overarching train of thought • Requires more research and drafting to achieve RSR aim. • Satisfies the criteria as stated in the 2025 RSR Brief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly presented and lacking in structure to such an extent that the aim of the RSR is not communicated. • Does not satisfy the criteria as stated in the 2025 RSR Brief.

To be noted by examiner:

- Read everything in the RSR before marking anything.
- Be careful not to penalise skilful brevity, nor to reward unwarranted length.

Marking steps:

- 1) Read the full RSR
- 2) Re-read and mark each section of the RSR: Section A, Section B, Section C and Overall Coherence.

2025 Leaving Certificate Classical Studies
Ordinary Level Marking Scheme

General Information:

- 0 marks given if an answer is not attempted or not valid according to marking scheme.

Section A: 300 marks

1. 30 marks

(a) 6 marks, 2 marks each

Greek name: Zeus

Roman Name: Jupiter

Symbol: throne, eagle (any valid symbol)

(b) 12 marks, 4 marks each, any valid facts about Zeus.

(c) 12 marks banded, write about a myth in any style, e.g. summary, discussion, description, an account.

12 marks: partial/full (based on level of detail)

10 marks: basic/incomplete

6 marks: very basic

2. 30 marks

(a) 8 marks, 2 marks each (any valid location)

Image B:

Name: Erechtheion

Location: Greece, Athens, Acropolis

Image A

Name: Pantheon

Location: Rome, Campus Martius

(b) 12 marks banded, comment on the unusual shape **using details from image**

- based on level of understanding/ engagement shown in comment, supported by details

12 marks: partial/full

10 marks: basic/incomplete

6 marks: very basic

(c) 10 marks, banded

10 marks: partial/full (specific)

5 marks: very basic/basic (general)

3. 30 marks

(a) 8 marks: 2 marks each (any two figures)

Hades – king of the Underworld.

Cerberus – guard dog of the Underworld

Charon – ferryman over the river Styx, boatman of Underworld.

Hermes – any reference to the souls accepted, brings souls to the underworld.

(b) 10 marks banded

10 marks: partial/full (specific information, detailed)

5 marks: very basic/basic (general information, limited details, one key element),
confusion between Greek and Roman customs

Indicative Material: stages of funeral, laying out of the dead, procession, mourners' role, burial, offering of gifts, Greek or Latin words not essential for top marks.

(c) 12 marks (9+3 banded, in any order), one valid point for each.

9 marks: full

+

3 marks: full

4 marks: partial

1 mark: partial

4. 30 marks

(a) 6 marks,

6 marks for Dido or queen of Carthage

2 marks for queen

(b) 12 marks, banded.

- based on level of analysis of drama & emotion using evidence from image; reference to Aeneas leaving for top marks

12 marks:partial/full

10 marks:basic/incomplete

6 marks:very basic

Indicative Material: may agree or disagree, focus on illustrates drama and emotion. Sense of drama created by colours, dark, moody image, position of people, creates storyline, emotion, thought-provoking. Can't see people's expression, not like in *Aeneid*, pyre in private bed chamber.

(c) 12 marks, banded

- Based on level of detail

12 marks: partial/full

10 marks: basic/incomplete

6 marks: very basic (or discussion of scenes not in Carthage)

Indicative Material: arrival in Carthage, visits temple of Juno, scenes from Trojan war, role of Juno and Venus, meeting Dido, banquet, hunt, 'marriage', Mercury telling Aeneas to leave, farewell to Dido, Dido's anger.

5. 30 marks

(a) 3 marks, **1 mark each**; False, True, True.

(b) 5 marks, valid point based on detail in image. (*e.g. Helmet, spear, Medusa, weaving.*)

(c) 10 marks, banded

- based on level of detail quality of description

10 marks: partial/full

5 marks: very basic/basic

Indicative Material: Protection from the suitors, disguise, helps Penelope sleep, Penelope's cleverness shows / highlights Athena's domain

(d) 12 marks banded

- based on development of opinion or amount of knowledge, clear reasons must be included

12 marks: partial/full

10 marks: basic/incomplete

6 marks: very basic.

Indicative Material: Strength of character, staying loyal, raising Telemachus, managing household, pious, clever, e.g. weaving shroud, contest with bow, moving bed, rewarded at the end for her heroic ways, Athena on her side.

6. 30 marks: any two valid strategies, 20 + 10 banded (in any order)

- based on level of knowledge about strategy; what, how, **and/or** why)

20 mark band

+

10 mark band

20 marks: full

10 marks, partial/full

15 marks: partial

5 marks: very basic/ basic

5 marks: very basic/ basic

Indicative Material, Alexander: Training from a young age, knowledge of war, led by example, success in battles due to planning of all aspects e.g. infantry, cavalry etc, Sieges – ability to overcome fortified places, using his coastal policy, policy of orientalism, getting others to side with him and give them rewards, generous to his men, gifts and money, sending money back to Macedonia. Specific military tactics or strategies in stated example of battle/ siege.

Indicative Material, Caesar: Well-connected family (Marius), education in Rhodes, treatment and defeat of pirates, followed cursus honorum, lavish spending as aedile, popular with people, pontifex maximus, strategic marriages, Triumvirate with Pompey and Crassus, success of Gallic wars, ability as general, loyalty of army, civil war with Pompey, appointment as dictator, assassination. Specific military tactics or strategies using an example of battle/ siege.

7. 30 marks

(a) 6 marks, banded

- based on level of understanding

6 marks: full/partial

4 marks: very basic/basic

2 marks: only repeating text as it appears (not in own words)

(b) 14 marks, banded

- based on level of understanding

14 marks: partial/full

11 marks: basic/incomplete

6 marks: very basic

Indicative Material: deed named, any aspect of chosen character's life, description can include why it's famous.

(c) 10 marks, banded

- based on development of opinion or amount of knowledge, clear reasons must be included for top marks

10 marks: partial/full: specific points

6 marks: very basic: general points

8. 30 marks

(a) 8 marks, 2 marks for each.

Image K: Gladiator fight; Colosseum

Image L: Chariot racing; Circus Maximus

(b) 8 marks, banded

8 marks: partial/full (specific details)

4 marks: very basic/basic (general)

Indicative Material: Scale of building, number of people, types of entertainment they watched, colours of teams, favourite teams, gladiators, level of noise, revulsion.

(c) 8 marks, banded

8 marks: partial/full (specific details)

4 marks: very basic/ basic (general)

Indicative Material: how often games took place, size of buildings and numbers attending, betting, written sources explaining popularity.

(d) 6 marks

- Based on level of understanding

6 marks: partial/full (specific details)

4 marks: very basic/ basic (general)

Indicative Material: gladiator - death or reprieve, fight to death;
charioteer – speed, vicious competition, cutting off reins to escape crash.

9. 30 marks

(a) 10 marks, any two valid reasons (7+3)

7 marks: full

+

3 marks: full

3 marks: partial

1 mark: partial

Indicative Material: exaggerate expressions, easy to see, hide actors, actors can play more than one-part, different genders, part of the dramatic impact.

(b) 10 marks, name and description of any valid feature (7+3, in any order)

7 marks: full

+

3 marks: full

3 marks: partial

1 mark: partial

Indicative Material: layout of the theatre, acoustics, music, the Chorus, entrance of characters, skene, deus ex machina, costumes, death off-stage

(c) 10 marks (5+5)

5 marks: what Dionysos was god of

and

5 marks: full - connection to Greek Tragedy using specific points

1 mark: partial/basic - connection to Greek Tragedy using general points

Indicative Material: god of wine, drama and theatre; religious festival in his honour, City Dionysia, altar to Dionysus, wanted to impress the god of drama.

10. 30 marks

(a) 4 marks: Medea or Philoctetes.

(b) 8 marks: banded

8 marks: partial/full (specific details)

4 marks: very basic/ basic (general)

(c) 8 marks (3+5)

3 marks for any valid theme or message

2-5 marks for importance

5 marks: partial/full

2 marks: very basic/ basic

Indicative Material: suffering, isolation, pain, betrayal; importance for plot to develop, understand character(s).

(d) 10 marks: banded

- based on development of opinion or amount of knowledge, at least one clear example

10 marks: partial/full

5 marks: very basic

Indicative Material: How chosen character is treated by others, relationship with the Chorus, why did they act as they did.

Section B: 100 marks

Question 11: 50 marks

(a) 20 marks: 5 marks for any valid lines

- + **15 marks** for explanation, banded
- based on level of understanding

15: partial/full

10: basic/incomplete

5: very basic.

(b) 30 marks

Each of these questions (**11bi, 11bii, 11biii**) has the same marking scheme, which is divided between two components:

- Development of material required to fully answer the question (**20 marks**)
- Overall quality of the answer (**10 marks**)

Development of Material (20 marks)

- 10 marks for **each** unit of development
- Features of a unit of development: candidate makes relevant **point**, includes relevant evidence to support the point (**knowledge**/understanding) and makes some development of the point (**analysis**/elaboration/discussion).
- Each unit of development is marked based on the level of development:
 - **10 marks** for a developed point
 - **7 marks** for a basic point
 - **4 marks** for a very basic point

Overall Quality (10 marks)

- Overall engagement with question **and** overall understanding of associated material
 - 8-10 marks:** Good Quality
 - o Focuses on the question; points are structured and supported by relevant and accurate evidence.
 - 1-7 marks:** Low Quality
 - o Limited engagement with the question; attempt to make points, but there is a lack of evidence/examples to support points made; relies mostly on narrative.

Questions 12 – 16: 50 marks

Each of these questions has the same marking scheme, which is divided between two components:

- Development of material required to fully answer the question (30 marks)
- Overall quality of the answer (20 marks)

Development of Material (30 marks)

- Features of a unit of development: candidate makes relevant point, includes relevant evidence to support the point (knowledge/understanding) and makes some development of the point (analysis/elaboration/discussion).
- Indicative structure of units: (15 + 15), (10+10+10), (8+8+7+7)
- Each unit of development is marked based on the level of development:
 - 11-15 marks** for a well-developed point
 - 8-10 marks** for a developed point
 - 1-7 marks** for a basic point

Overall Quality (20 marks)

- Overall engagement with question and overall understanding of associated material
 - 15-20 marks:** Good Quality
 - o Focuses on the question; points are structured and supported by relevant and accurate evidence.
 - 1-14 marks:** Low Quality
 - o Limited engagement with the question; attempt to make points, but there is a lack of evidence/examples to support points made; relies mostly on narrative.

Marks	Descriptors for overall marks awarded to Questions 12-16
41-50 Very Good/ Full	Demonstrates a good knowledge of the material, but not all is relevant. Selects very good evidence to support their points. Addresses the question asked, but not always in a sustained and coherent manner. Most ideas and/or points are purposeful and relevant.
31-40 Good/ Partial	Demonstrates a good knowledge of the material, but some is not relevant. Selects good evidence, but not all is supportive of their points. Some aspects of the question are not addressed. Some ideas and/or points are purposeful and relevant.
21-30 Basic	Demonstrates some knowledge of the material, but many details are irrelevant. Selects evidence, though does not adequately support points or opinions. Many aspects of the question are not addressed. Few ideas and/or points are purposeful and relevant.
1-20 Very Basic	Demonstrates limited knowledge or understanding of the material. Selects few/no evidence to support points. Most or all aspects of the question are not addressed. Most or all ideas and/or points lack purpose and relevance.

