



General Certificate of Education

Classical Civilisation

CIV1E Menander and Plautus

Report on the Examination

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CIV1E Menander and Plautus

There was a very small entry for this topic, and candidates generally showed good insights into the comedy they had studied.

Question 1

From a very small entry for this topic, no candidate attempted Question 1 on *Old Cantankerous*.

Question 2

Candidates experienced few difficulties in answering Questions 211, 212 and 213 and in Question 220 they were generally able to offer a reasoned evaluation of the effectiveness of the passage with reference to Tranio's trickery, the comic dialogue and, in the best answers, the comic business this implied.

In Question 230 most candidates demonstrated some knowledge of the roles of the two old men, but there were variations in the quality of the analysis of their contrasting temperaments, the different reactions they might arouse in the audience and the extent to which each was an active or passive participant in the plot.

Question 3

Question 300 was the less popular essay in Section 2. Evaluation was attempted but its effectiveness was undermined by a tendency to give all male-female relationships a somewhat cursory discussion without sufficient detailed attention to that between Alcmena and her husband, which is so central to *Amphitryo*.

Question 4

Question 400 also required some detailed analysis of *Amphitryo*, and in this case it was often delivered. In the course of their evaluative arguments the best candidates demonstrated some perceptive insights on the ways in which, and the extent to which, Plautus subverted an otherwise serious element of Roman behaviour and belief for comic effect, as well as some understanding of the way Plautus constructed his plays.