



General Certificate of Education

# **Classical Civilisation**

CIV1E Menander and Plautus

## **Report on the Examination**

*2011 examination – January series*

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## **CIV1E Menander and Plautus**

### **Option A**

The small number of candidates for this unit performed to a very high standard, and this was particularly true in Questions 01 to 03, in which all achieved full marks. Responses to the passage in Question 03 were especially impressive for their breadth of coverage and depth of analysis. Answers to Question 04 also usually showed good understanding of the nature of Menander's comedy which was supported by well-chosen examples.

### **Option B**

The quality of work was almost as high as in Option A, with further demonstration of generally accurate knowledge in Questions 05 to 07 and perceptive, well-argued assessments of the entertainment value of the passage in Question 08. Question 09 also elicited some sensible, well-supported arguments, although some candidates rather underestimated the seriousness of the breach which Jupiter's frolics almost caused in Amphitryo's and Alcmena's marital relations.

### **Option C and Option D**

Candidates were almost evenly divided between Options C and D, as they had been between Options A and B. Although the overall performance was slightly better in Question 11, both questions elicited some strong arguments which showed some good insights into the portrayal of slaves (Question 10) and women (Question 11). Most candidates appreciated the need to present a balanced viewpoint based on a range of examples taken from across the plays – and in the best answers some understanding of Athenian and Roman society too – but a few answers were more limited in scope and left some points unexplained or unsupported. Overall, however, the candidates had clearly shown much diligence in their study and found much to enjoy in the work of these two playwrights