



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2015

Marking Scheme

Hebrew 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.

General Introduction

The first aim of the Hebrew Studies Leaving Certificate syllabus requires candidates to be able to read and understand Classical and Post-Biblical Hebrew. This aim of the syllabus is emphasised especially with regard to language and comprehension. This is why part (a) of each question seeks to discover if the student has grasped the main points of the text. This aim is also examined in each question in part (b) which normally, but not always, consists of a question concerning language.

The second aim of the Hebrew Studies Leaving Certificate syllabus requires candidates to display a deep understanding of the history, religion and civilisation of the Hebrew people by focusing in great depth upon major themes regarding institutions, religious ideas and roles as they were expressed and developed during the course of Israelite history. It is expected that this aim of the syllabus is taken very seriously by candidates. It is for this reason that part (c) is allocated 50 marks in each question. Examiners look for well presented largely descriptive treatment of material.

There are 3 parts to each examination question, (a) (b) and (c):

Part (a)

25 marks

This part examines the candidate's knowledge of the main points of the text, either as a simple translation or as a summary. The candidate is generally required to translate part or all of the passage. Marks are awarded proportionate to the quality and quantity of the amount translated e.g. if the candidate has translated correctly 25% of the passage, then the student will be awarded 6 marks (25% of the 25 marks allocated).

Part (b)

25 marks

Three formats of question are normally found here:

1. *Write a brief note on....* Two substantial points which are developed are expected here (13, 12 Marks). Marks are awarded for two relevant and well developed points. The candidate is expected to have a sound knowledge of the text itself and its immediate context.
2. *Parse and translate....* equal marks are given to translating and parsing. (This fulfils the first aim of the syllabus).
3. *Give a suitable title...* this too fulfils the first aim of the syllabus. 15 marks are awarded for correct grammar and 10 marks for appropriateness to the passage. Square script is expected. Any title will be accepted if it is grammatically correct and appropriate.

Part (c)

50 marks

This part of the examination paper is designed to examine the candidate's knowledge of the theme which corresponds to the theme represented by this section of the syllabus. The essay title in part (c) of each question is normally phrased in broad general terms to allow the candidate scope in interpreting it and to encourage originality in answering it. Examiners seek descriptive treatment of the points made but quotations and reference are also expected. The candidate is expected to discuss three (or four) main points. There must be accurate historical references and a good general knowledge of the topic chosen. The candidate is expected to have grasped a good overall perspective of the history of the Hebrew people and to relate one historical aspect to another.

When dealing with individuals, whether prophets or kings, considerable detail of the character is expected and the main aspects of their lives or message included. Evidence is expected that the candidate has acquired clear and precise overall perspective whether of history, the literary nature of the Bible and Mishnah or the main theological themes of the Bible and Mishnah.

It is essential that candidates should include Biblical/Mishnaic or historical references. This depends very much on the title but generally four references should be included. The candidate is expected to refer specially to a text e.g. Gen.6:9-2 or Ecc. 3:2-6 rather than in vague general terms. Similarly, where appropriate, precise historical dates should be included e.g. 167-163 BCE when dealing with Antiochus. In other cases, candidates might make

reference to 'the middle of the 7th century'. Candidates are also expected to quote a short phrase from a Biblical or Mishnaic text.

Examiners look either for 3 points (13+13+14) or for four solid points (10+10+10+10). The final 10 marks are awarded for quotation or reference. It is not the intention of the question or the examiners to be over prescriptive in the way each question is answered but evidence of a general and overall grasp of the material is essential for candidates.

