

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

GCE O Level Modern Greek (7615)

January 2005

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MODERN GREEK 7615, MARK SCHEME

Question 1: Translation into English

0-1	Poor. The candidate has very little idea of what the passage is about and / or the translation is written in barely intelligible English.
2-3	Weak. Limited comprehension. The candidate appears to be relying on inspiration and guesswork.
4-6	Satisfactory. The candidate has grasped the basic sense of the passage but is never in total control of the meaning. There are likely to be many errors and omissions, with carelessness and sometimes poor English.
7-8	Good. The candidate will have produced a reasonably accurate translation, with a little awkward English and some errors and omissions.
9-10	Very good/excellent. Candidates will have demonstrated a fluent command of vocabulary and idiom. They will also have demonstrated a good awareness of style, which makes the passage flow. At the lower end of the range there may be one or two careless minor errors.

Question 2: Translation into Greek

0-1	The candidate will have been unable to translate the passage. There will be very little or no rewardable work.
2-3	The candidates here will have shown some very limited linguistic ability; however, they will only occasionally use the correct vocabulary with good grammar and structures.
4-5	There will have been a pedestrian translation containing many grammatical errors and the wrong choice of vocabulary but the passage shows some level of communication and also some linguistic achievement.
6-7	The candidate will have produced a competent translation to have gained marks at this level. There will be some grammatical inaccuracies and some wrong use of vocabulary but the language is well-communicated and there is evidence of linguistic achievement.
8-10	The candidate will have produced an excellent translation. The language will read well, and will also contain a variety of correctly-used structures, vocabulary and idiom. There may be occasional grammatical errors.

Question 3: Essay Question (40 marks)

Communication	20 marks
Accuracy and variety/interest	20 marks

Communication Grid

Objective	The ability to express ideas, facts and reactions relevant to a narrative, report or description
1-5	About a quarter of what is written will have shown the ability to express ideas relevant to the narrative, report or description required. Overall, however, there is little evidence of an ability to put ideas into a satisfactory sequence. As a result, the piece on the whole contains a substantial amount of incoherence, irrelevance or unaccountable digression.
6-10	At least half of what is written will have shown the ability to express ideas in a form that is comprehensible to a native reader. There will also have been evidence of the ability to put ideas into a satisfactory sequence. Though there are likely to be many areas of incoherence, irrelevance, ambiguity or illogical argument, these should not be sufficient to obscure the overall theme or purpose of the whole passage.
11-15	At least three-quarters of what is written will have shown evidence of ability to put ideas and events into a recognisable sequence. While there may still be evidence of oddity, irrelevance, ambiguity or even occasionally incoherence, these will have given the impression of having been aberrations in an otherwise coherent and pertinent piece of work.
16-20	Notwithstanding any errors that do not interfere with the comprehension of the passage, all of what is written will have been correctly sequenced and unambiguous. The minor oddity or irrelevance may be tolerated in this range, but should not detract from the overall picture of a confident, fluent, pertinent and purposeful piece of work.

Account and Variety/Interest Grid

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>To write with sufficient variety and interest to give a sensibly fluent account, report or description which would give a native reader confidence in what one was saying and one's judgements in the situation.</p> <p>To write with sufficient accuracy and sense of grammatical structure to give evidence of clear understanding of the basic principles of the language and a solid foundation for further study. To demonstrate a grasp of syntax, case, gender, predication, subordination and co-ordination.</p>
<p>1-5</p>	<p>About a quarter of what is written is correctly spelled. A substantial proportion of the work contains errors of more than a single letter. There will have been frequent errors involving common words. The candidate will have observed case and gender only intermittently. The verb inflexions will have been very insecure on a frequent basis.</p> <p>The vocabulary and structures will have been barely adequate to have performed the task required. There will have been little or no evidence of factual information or enhancement.</p>
<p>6-10</p>	<p>About half of what was written will have been correctly spelled. The common words will have been generally correct, and most of the errors will have been limited to a single letter/symbol.</p> <p>The vocabulary used and the structures employed will have been adequate for the conveyance of the intended meaning. The candidate may have attempted enhancement of given facts or even more ambitious structures, though not always successfully. The use of structures and vocabulary may be a little conservative, sometimes repetitive, though relatively accurate.</p>
<p>11-15</p>	<p>About three-quarters of what is written will have been correctly spelled. There will have been clear evidence of an understanding of case, gender, tense/person even though lapses will be present.</p> <p>The candidate will have used a variety of vocabulary, and may have made sensible use of attributive adjectives, subordinate clauses, relative clauses, in a successful way. There may also be evidence of idiomatic language.</p>
<p>16-20</p>	<p>Errors made will be confined to minor lapses. The candidate will have used a wide range of vocabulary to avoid repetition and will have added interest. The more difficult structures and idioms will have been successfully employed.</p>

MODERN GREEK 7615, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

General Comments

A substantial proportion of this year's candidates produced competent translations and confident essays, exhibiting a high level of linguistic skill and writing dexterity.

There was a very small number of responses that displayed minimal knowledge of English and therefore left a significant part of the exam paper unanswered. As the O level in Modern Greek is examined through the medium of English and 60% of the final mark is for translation, fluency in Modern Greek ought to be accompanied by sufficient knowledge of English for the candidate to achieve a satisfactory grade.

Questions 1(a) and (b)

The majority of the answers showed evidence of fluency and good awareness of grammar and syntax. In fact, this year's translations stood out in terms of their structural awareness and sensitivity towards grammatical issues (word order in particular) and lexis. Although there were isolated instances of literal renditions of idiomatic expressions, most of the answers were impressive in terms of their communicative efficiency as well as their linguistic achievement. Examples of erroneous interpretation are as follows:

- a) «Πριν από είκοσι χρόνια» was sometimes translated as "before twenty years".
- b) «Καλά- καλά» was often literally rendered as "well-well" instead of as "I didn't quite know" or something similar to this.
- c) "small age" instead of "young age" for «μικρή ηλικία».
- d) «να κάνουμε τη δική μας επιχείρηση» was often translated as "make our company".

Lexical challenges were rarely evident and were mostly restricted to a few words. A pattern with regard to the word «διευθύντρια» evolved, as many candidates mistranslated it as "Headmistress", failing to adapt the word to its particular context and translate it as "director". Other examples of isolated small hurdles, regarding vocabulary, are:

- a) «συγγραφέα» was often translated as "actor" instead of "writer".
- b) «εξαιρέσουμε» was rarely translated as "leave out".
- c) "patient" was sometimes used instead of "patience" for «υπομονή».

There was a noticeable improvement in grammar and syntax, especially with regard to mother tongue interference. Inaccurate forms related mainly to the following:

- a) "to find in a big city", instead of "to find myself."
- b) "some friends suggested me", instead of "some friends suggested to me".
- c) "me and my brother", instead of "my brother and I".

Question 2

Answers to question 2 ranged from satisfactory to excellent. There were a few instances of misuse of vocabulary, but generally the language communicated well and grammatical lapses were rare. The challenges that confronted a small number of candidates were mainly restricted to vocabulary and did not affect the communicative efficiency of the translations seriously.

Two words seemed to pose a challenge to the less able candidates - "rewarded", often rendered as «πληρωνόμαστε», and "confession", sometimes translated as «ιδέα». The only other pattern that was repeated with some frequency related to the inaccurate translation of "we don't have to be" as «δεν πρέπει», instead of as «δεν είναι ανάγκη» or «δεν χρειάζεται». As this erroneous translation cut across the range of skills and abilities, it is

recommended that candidates look more closely into the difference between “one must not” and “one does not have to” and their equivalents in Greek.

Question 3

Most candidates wrote with satisfactory variety, and gave fluent and confident accounts and descriptions of their chosen topics. The most popular essays proved to be the ones on “the generation gap” and “New Year’s resolutions”. There were many essays for part (e), and vivid and sometimes sensational accounts of an imaginary disaster (eg Cyprus being hit by a tsunami). Candidates were generally careful about keeping to the rubric and the word count requirement, but a small number of answers did not pay enough attention to an orderly and clear presentation; these displayed a rather hasty and careless attitude towards neatness and clear writing. In general, answers that are covered in smudges and crossings out do not do justice to the candidates’ creativity, argument, or language skills, and candidates are advised to write neat versions if time allows.

MODERN GREEK 7615, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	71	57	44	39	30

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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