

## MODERN GREEK 7615, JANUARY 2006, REPORT

### General Comments

The majority of the candidates who sat the January exam performed very well and provided good translations, both from English into Greek and vice versa. Question 3 provoked pertinent and interesting accounts and there was evidence of good language skills in most essays.

### Question 1a and 1b

In comparison to previous series, here was a marked improvement regarding the use of English, in terms of grammar and syntax, but vocabulary awareness also. The majority of candidates grasped the basic sense of the passage and produced reasonable translations. The overall impression of these translations was that the students had worked competently and took into account the rules about grammar and word order. The tenses were formed and sequenced correctly, spelling was mostly accurate and omissions were rare. There were imaginative attempts to render more challenging vocabulary into English. Even though these attempts were not always entirely successful, they yielded results that despite their awkwardness, showed that the candidate had some control over the meaning of the passage.

Examples include:

#### Question 1a

- «αναστέναξε» was sometimes translated as ‘said with a breath’, or ‘exhaled’, as some candidates tried to get around their difficulty of coming up with ‘sighed’

#### Question 1b

- «ιερή στιγμή» was sometimes translated as ‘holy moment’ instead of as ‘sacred moment’
- «σιωπηλοί» was occasionally translated as ‘speechless’ instead of as ‘silent’
- «άνθρωποι» was sometimes rendered as ‘humans’ instead of the more appropriate and straightforward ‘people’.

Some errors regarding grammar and vocabulary were limited to the following and did not occur frequently:

#### Question 1a

- «ηλιοβασίλεμα» was sometimes translated as ‘sunrise’, instead of ‘sunset’
- A number of students did not recognise ‘Attica’ and offered ‘Africa’ or ‘Asia’ instead

#### Question 1b

- Candidates whose grasp of grammar was slightly insecure wrote ‘it was a dance record that like us very much’, instead of ‘...that we liked very much’
- Few candidates failed to see «υποθέσεις» in the context of the courtroom and wrote ‘affairs’, instead of ‘cases’.

#### Question 2

Most candidates gained high marks in this section. They produced competent translations and there were very few grammatical inaccuracies. Despite evidence of occasional errors, the translations usually read well and communicated the sense of the source text correctly.

Certain patterns relating to errors were as follows:

- ‘Homer’ and ‘The Iliad’, were often left untranslated.
- «όπως» was often accompanied by an accusative instead of the correct nominative, in the phrase «όπως τον θείο του». The correct translation would be: «Είναι σαν το θείο του» or «Είναι όπως ο θείος του»

A surprising large number of candidates translated the high frequency word ‘waiters’ as «αυτοί που περιμένουν»

#### Question 3

Candidates used a wide range of vocabulary and employed complex structures and idiom in order to respond to the question. There was a preference for the topics concerning foreign languages and professional security for young people as these seemed to bear some relevance to the candidates’ world of experience. There was a very refreshing pattern of candidates sticking to the prescribed wordage and providing mostly pertinent and coherent accounts of their ideas and experience. There were very few lapses into irrelevance and the kind of digression that is evidence of a pre-learned essay. One observation which ought to be taken on board by the candidates, however, concerns the presentation of their work. Many candidates presented essays that were hardly legible, the writing not only being hard to read but also marked by smudges and asterisks and words being crossed out over and over again. Although no one was penalised for the untidy appearance of their work, it would be a courtesy to the examiners to take some extra care when answering this exam paper.

MODERN GREEK 7615, JANUARY 2006, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	71	57	43	38	30

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