



General Certificate of Education

Classical Civilisation

CIV4A Socrates and Athens

Report on the Examination

2010 examination – June series

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CIV4A: Socrates and Athens

General Comment

CIV4 has proved successful in attracting a diverse range of centres with different interests. CIV4A (Socrates and Athens), a former coursework topic, was the least popular option but even so attracted a particular clientele consisting largely, although not exclusively, of more able candidates. On the whole, candidates showed appropriate skills of analysis, application of knowledge, evaluation and organisation of ideas, covering the whole range of mark levels. More care, however, should be taken by a minority, but a significant one, of candidates to read the rubric of the questions and to answer in a relevant way. Many good answers were received in response to the 40-mark synoptic questions, and in the best of these candidates showed an impressive grasp of wider issues.

Option A

Most candidates scored high marks or full marks on Questions 01 and 02, both of which called for factual recall. In response to Question 03 there was a tendency for candidates to give Socrates' counter-arguments, better reserved for Questions 04, rather than their own reactions to the persuasiveness of Crito's arguments.

Question 04 was generally well done with many candidates making the attempts to answer in a carefully reasoned way.

Option B

Again, most candidates scored high, or even full, marks on the factual question, Question 05. On the other hand, for Question 06 detailed knowledge of the chorus in *Clouds* was often lacking, but there were some notable exceptions.

In Question 07 some were uncertain of the meaning of 'quibbler' but most made good attempts at evaluation, the best making good use of details from *Euthyphro* and *Apology*.

Option C

On a basic level, most candidates showed knowledge of the prescribed texts for Question 08, and the more successful trawled their memories for appropriate examples such as Socrates' response to the oracle in *Apology* to support their arguments. The most able discussed the distorting effect of comedy.

Option D

In their responses to Question 09, some saw Socrates as dangerous to Athens through his criticisms of democracy whilst others took the opposite standpoint, citing such things as the fact that Socrates had already lived in Athens peacefully for so long, doing military service and participating in democratic procedures. The most able candidates discussed the subversive nature of his questioning techniques.