

Forum

Towards a Communicative Test of Reading and Language Use for Classical Greek

Polyxeni Poupounaki-Lappa, Tzortzina Peristeri and David Coniam

LanguageCert, Greece

Abstract

This paper describes the development of a communicative test of Reading and Language Use for Classical Greek, aimed at students at CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) levels A1 and A2. A discussion is first provided of traditional pedagogical approaches which have for many decades dominated the teaching of classical languages, followed by suggestions why these may be supplanted with more modern communicative approaches. Focus then moves to assessment, where, it is suggested, methods are equally rooted in traditional, form-focused methods. If teaching is to become more communicative, it is argued, so should assessment. Against this backdrop, the development of a test of Reading and Language Use for students of Classical Greek at CEFR levels A1 and A2 is described.

Key words: Classical Greek, communicative approach, assessment, reading and language use, CEFR levels

Introduction

Calls are increasingly being voiced by educators and teachers of classical languages for a more communicative, and humanistic, approach to the teaching of classical languages – see e.g., Hunt (2021), Lloyd (2021), Manning (2021). Against this background of proposed changes in pedagogy, this paper proposes parallel changes in assessment, because assessment impacts pedagogy (see Rind *et al*, 2019, Cheng, 2005), arguing the case for a communicative test of reading and language use for learners of Classical Greek. Discussion first explores the extent to which Classical Greek currently features in European schools and the traditional – i.e., analytical rather than communicative – pedagogies by which it is predominantly taught.

For a number of reasons, such as teacher interest in communicative approaches to language learning, learner interest and motivation, as well as efforts to improve uptake by schools, a considerable number of academics and practitioners have been advocating that Classical Greek be taught in a similar manner to modern languages: that is, based more around communicative approaches to language teaching – see e.g., Richards & Rodgers (2014). Following an exploration of a communicative approach in teaching, the current paper then moves to an examination of assessment in classical languages, where there would appear to be even less use of modern methods and where traditional, grammar-translation approaches to assessment predominate.

Following this background, discussion shifts to the development of a communicative test of reading and language use for Classical Greek, to be used with international students. An outline of tests of Reading and Language use of Classical Greek at CEFR levels A1 and

A2 is provided, illustrating how curriculum development adheres to communicative CEFR principles. The two tests have been developed so that, following trialling, they may be calibrated together to a single CEFR-linked scale.

Uptake of Classical Greek as a subject in the school curriculum

Classical Greek (or ‘Ancient Greek’) remains a key feature of many education systems. Besides being a compulsory secondary education subject in Greece, it is quite widely taught in many countries in Europe and around the world. This section briefly explores its reach.

In Italy, Classical Greek is a compulsory subject for the ‘Liceo Classico’ high schools (ages 14–19) and an estimated 6.7 percent of Italian students study Classical Greek over a period of five years (statista, 2021).

In the Netherlands, all classical secondary school ‘gymnasia’ students study Latin and Classical Greek for three years (ages 12–15) with an average of two to three teaching hours a week per language. Students can then opt to focus on one of the two languages for another three years, with an average of four to six teaching hours a week (van Bommel, 2016).

In Germany, Greek is taught in many ‘gymnasia’ (grammar schools). Additionally, students aged 14 and over in 200 high schools are able to opt to learn Classical Greek as a third foreign language (Chrysopoulos, 2016; fonien, 2016).

In the UK, Classical Greek is taught at elite secondary schools, with a small, if consistent, number of candidates each year sitting Year 11 GCSEs and Year 13 A levels – see Taylor (2003) for a discussion.

Classical Greek is also taught in Uruguay, where there is a substantial Greek community (ellines, 2018).

Author of correspondence: David Coniam, E-mail: david.coniam@peoplecert.org

Cite this article: Poupounaki-Lappa P, Peristeri T and Coniam D (2021). Towards a Communicative Test of Reading and Language Use for Classical Greek. *Journal of Classics Teaching*, 22, 98–105. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2058631021000222>

While the study of Classical Greek is viewed in some quarters as having little relevance to modern society, other scholars are more positive, discussing how the uptake of Classical Greek may be furthered (Foster, 2018). Gibbs (2003), for example, writes about the outlook for the teaching of Classics being 'more auspicious' than in previous decades. Bracke (2015) discusses the teaching of the subject in primary schools in Wales. Hunt (2018) describes movements to increase – with some success – the uptake of Classics in UK schools in the period 2010–15. Holmes-Henderson *et al.* (2018) review ways of increasing the uptake and reach of Classics.

Teaching Methods and Materials

Teaching methods for classical languages such as Latin and Greek have been typically traditional – largely *grammar translation* (Nielson, 2018). Under such a methodology, the majority of the instruction is conducted through the medium of the students' first language, where the focus is on reading texts, or 'more typically, translating them' (Gruber-Miller, 2006).

In contrast, the essence of a 'communicative' approach to language teaching (e.g. Richards & Rodgers, 2014) may be summarised as a focus on communication, rather than simply on form, and on the communicative needs of learners, rather than solely focusing on linguistic systems such as grammar.

Given that an accepted tenet of the teaching of modern languages is that communication and language use should be at the forefront of any pedagogical approach, it is instructive to consider why grammar translation as a methodology predominates in the field of Classics education. In the UK, where classical languages are taught in a comparatively small number of elite schools, subjects such as Latin and Classical Greek have been considered essentially tests of intellectual ability. In many instances, the teaching of Classical Greek is limited to analysing the original text in terms of grammar, syntax and form – with the focus being on translating the text in students' L1 and engaging in a philological analysis. In this context, grammar translation as a toolkit for language study and analysis has been viewed as the vehicle to access meaning and to establish understanding of the written message. Against this backdrop – and with the aim of the teaching of modern foreign languages being *communication* – it is perhaps not surprising that teaching methods underpinning classical and modern languages have diverged. Nonetheless, a strong call is currently being made that, if the teaching of classical languages is to have a degree of relevance in the modern world, and for students to want to study them, more communicative-focused approaches to language learning and teaching need to be adopted. This argument is exemplified in the volume by Lloyd & Hunt (2021), where the case for communicative approaches to the teaching of classical languages is clearly made, and which resonates strongly through the work of many educators and practitioners, a number of whom are cited below.

The lack of a focus on communicative competence has contributed to making the teaching of Classics cognitively rather demanding and this has led to a preponderance of dull, dry teaching materials and examinations, which bear little relevance to any form of communication and so have limited relevance to the learner; see e.g. Taylor (2003). Gruber-Miller (2006), on the issue of communicative competence, argues that if grammar is taught to the exclusion of communication skills, the result is students who have 'a limited ability to comprehend and produce complex discourse fluently and accurately'.

Major (2018) argues in a similar vein in his discussion of the *Standards for Classical Language Learning* (2017) in the USA, a

document promoting the teaching of classical languages for all age groups and educational levels. Given that a major aim of the *Standards* is explicitly stated as *communication*, Major (2018), summarising much that is deficient with relation to the dominant approaches and pedagogical resources for teaching Classical Greek, states:

Greek language teaching and pedagogical support materials are woefully out of sync with interest in the language outside the academy (Major, 2018, p.55).

Major (2018) views the *Standards for Classical Language Learning* (2017) as being a force for helping to reorient the priorities and focuses of Greek language classes in the USA in ways that 'both correspond to broader interest and result in improved language comprehension' (Major, 2018, p.55).

With reference to the 'broader interest' issue alluded to above, it is interesting to note that while modern authors rarely write in Classical Greek, there are instances of modern-day attempts to further the reach of Classical Greek: Jan Křesadlo has written poetry and prose in a Classical Greek style, and versions of Harry Potter and Asterix are also available in Classical Greek. This resonates with Pettersson & Rosengren's (2021) work in attempting to increase learner interest in Latin by creating modern resources in Latin.

There has been, it should nonetheless be noted, some innovation in the teaching of Classical Greek. Moore (2013), for example, outlines the use of song in the Greek classroom and how this may be used to motivate student interest. Bayerle (2013) describes the use of team-based learning to generate interest and activity in his Classical Greek classes. Dvorsky-Rohner (2008) describes the use of gaming exercises and strategies to engage and motivate learners of Classical Greek. Hill (2021) outlines the operation of a 'conventiculum' – all-day immersion activities – in Classical Greek.

Assessment

In the field of modern languages, mirroring the changes in the approaches to teaching, assessment has seen similar shifts: with moves to more communicative and relevant forms of assessment. Paltridge (1992) frames one of the key aims of communicative language testing as measuring how well a test taker is able to perform 'real life' language tasks, or activities. As Bachman and Palmer (2010) outline, the validity of a language test is predicated on how much test scores reflect what test takers can do in a language. The corollary of this is that assessment tasks will bear some relevance to the real world, and not be solely tests of grammar.

As outlined above, the teaching of Classical Greek is gaining some momentum towards a more communicative outlook. In contrast, assessment remains very traditional. An examination of the UK's A level Classical Greek examinations, for example, reveals a heavy focus on translation and the explication of grammatical rules. Assessment at college level also reflects a heavily analytical focus. Watanabe (2010), for example, describes a Greek standardised multiple-choice examination taken by students from 24 American colleges and universities. The college Greek examination outlined by Watanabe does not assess any 'communicative constructs' (Harding, 2014), with all test items being discrete-point tests of the forms of noun cases, verb mood and tense, followed by similar questions on a short reading passage. The focus is purely on form (Mahoney, 2004); there is very little in the test which addresses any of the communicative forces outlined by Gruber-Miller (2006), or which have a place in the *Standards for Classical Language Learning*.

The Development of a Communicative Test of Reading and Language Use in Classical Greek

The test outlined below attempts to address some of the issues created by the lack of ‘communicativeness’ in existing Classical Greek tests. To be truly communicative, a test should ideally assess all language skills (see Mitchell *et al.*, 2019). As a first, albeit limited, step in this direction, the test developed assesses Reading and Language Use, with the test seen as a qualification suitable for young people or adults who intend to apply for higher education or professional employment. The test is intended to be calibrated to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) at levels A1 and A2. Development has taken place based on the CEFR manual (Council of Europe, 2001) with its detailed specifications guiding the development of tests, and addressing what is assessed, how performance is interpreted, and how comparisons in achievement may be made. The test has been developed by LanguageCert, an Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation offering globally-recognised language qualifications, whose purview is the assessment of modern languages in communicative contexts.

The following section presents an overview of the A1 and A2 level tests, with reference to test specifications covering both grammatical and functional aspects of communicative language ability. These specifications were produced over an extended period by a group of Classical Greek academics and teachers. The detailed set of specifications and associated official practice material is available in the *LanguageCert Test of Classical Greek (LTCG) Qualification Handbook* for the examination (LanguageCert, 2021). The examples provided below are drawn from this *Qualification Handbook*.

There are three key components to the test specifications, as per the CEFR Manual: reading and vocabulary subskills; topics; and grammatical/syntactic structures.

Reading is specified in terms of three components:

1. Reading subskills
2. Vocabulary range features
3. Text structure subskills

Figure 1 below presents a snapshot of these elements. The exemplars in the figures below are drawn from the A1 level test.

<p>Reading subskills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand very short simple narratives and descriptions • recognise the purposes of short texts where the purpose and intended audience is clear • understand viewpoints if made clearly and simply <p>Vocabulary range features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand very familiar words and phrases in simple short text • understand isolated words, short simple phrases and grammatical structures that link clauses and help identify time reference <p>Text structure subskills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the organisational, lexical and grammatical features of short simple texts • recognise different purposes of simple texts

Figure 1. Reading skills (from *LTCG Qualification Handbook*)

A1	A2 (building on A1 specs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal identification • house and home, environment • daily life • free time, entertainment • activities • travel • relations with other people • health and body care • food and drink • places • weather • measures and shapes • education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measures and shapes • health and body care • food and drink

Figure 2. Topics (from *LTCG Qualification Handbook*)

A range of topics are covered relevant to test takers in the modern world. Figure 2 presents a sample.

The most extensive part of the syllabus, nonetheless, as is perhaps to be expected, relates to the specification of grammatical, lexical and syntactic features. This came as a requirement for beginner levels in order to guide test takers and educators in organising their study prior to taking the exam. Key elements covered in the specifications are laid out in Figure 3 below.

A fuller set of specification is provided in Appendices 1 and 2. These are presented in two columns, one for the A1 level test, and a second for the A2 level test (which subsumes the A1 component).

In line with Council of Europe principles and practice, CEFR-linked tests link with communicative ‘Can-do’ statements about language use. Figure 4 presents a sample.

The use of ‘Can-do’ statements relates to the functional use of linguistic resources, and functional competence (Council of Europe, 2001). Tests aimed at lower-competency levels – as with

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alphabet • syllables – accentuation • parts of speech / syntax • verb forms • nouns • pronouns • prepositions • articles • adjectives • infinitives • participles

Figure 3. Grammatical and syntactic categories (from *LTCG Qualification Handbook*)

- I can recognise familiar words and very basic phrases in short texts.
- I can understand simple information if there is visual support.
- I can understand the main points and locate specific information in short simple texts on familiar matters.
- I can work out the probable meaning of unknown words from the context.

Figure 4. Can-do statements (from *LTCG Qualification Handbook*)

Part 1: 10 items: Multiple matching	(images and words)
Part 2: 10 items: True/False	(statements and visuals)
Part 3: 10 items: Multiple-choice cloze	(gapped text)
Part 4: 10 items: Multiple matching	(gapped text)

Figure 5. Classical Greek task types (from *LTCG Qualification Handbook*)

the current A1 and A2 level tests – show an emphasis on finite elements of language form. That said, it can be seen how test parts go beyond a mere form analysis and require a fuller understanding of meaning conveyed. Part 2 focuses on relating meaning to a given image; in Parts 3 and 4, the textual nature of the assessment goes beyond the assessment of grammar and calls for inferencing meaning utilising cohesion and coherence devices of the transmitted message.

Test Components

The A1 and A2 tests both consist of four parts, each using distinct task types to assess specific sub-skills. Figure 5 elaborates.

A sample paper for the A2 level Classical Greek test is provided in Appendix 4. Further detail and sample papers – official practice material – for both A1 and A2 levels are available at <https://www.languagecert.org/en/language-exams/classical-greek/languagecert-test-of-classical-greek/languagecert-test-of-classical-greek-a1-ltgc-reading-and-language-use>.

While the tests follow communicative principles and are a mixture of authentic and level-adapted materials, the tests at times draw on classical texts that embody the spirit of Greek writers and their works (see, for example, the University of Oxford's <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/preliminary-examination-classics-and-english/>). This use of classical texts echoes the well-accepted practice of the use of literature in the language classroom (Daskalovska & Dimova, 2012).

Trialling

To ensure quality and credibility, in any test development, trialling is a key element in the process which has to be conducted before a test may be formally offered. The trialling of the A1 and A2 level tests is planned for mid-2021 with each test being administered to a group of test takers identified as being at the appropriate level. The two tests have a common section so that they may be calibrated together, with the materials used in the two tests placed on a common difficulty scale. Test takers will also complete a set of 'Can-do' statements (a sample of which was presented in Figure 4 above), self-assessing their ability in Classical Greek. This will provide triangulated feedback to enable greater validity to be attached to the results obtained from the analysis and the calibration of the two tests together.

Concluding and Moving Forward

Following an examination of the background, history and approaches to the teaching of Classical Greek, the current paper has outlined the development of a new communicative test of reading and language use for Classical Greek aimed at test takers interested in obtaining a formal qualification in Classical Greek. The test has been developed in order to promote more contemporary approaches to communicative assessment within the context of the Council of Europe communicative principles for test design and for calibration to recognised standards. In this vein, the test entails a clear definition of specifications comprising both grammatical and functional elements. The paper has described how, with the advice and input of experts in the field, test specifications were developed and used to create a four-part examination which is now ready for trialling. Following the piloting, a follow-up paper will report on the validation of the trial tests and the creation of a preliminary common scale linked to the CEFR.

Polyxeni Poupounaki Lappa is a Project Manager at LanguageCert. She coordinates and handles various projects, focusing on the development of new language qualifications. She has an academic background in Linguistics and Language Teaching, as well as an extensive experience in the field of ELT and Educational Assessment. She has decisively contributed to the development of a high-quality multilingual exams portfolio in her capacity as Project Manager. xenialappa@peoplecert.org

Tzortzina Peristeri is Editor of Classical Greek at LanguageCert. She holds a BA in Greek Philology and an MA in Classics and Ancient History. She has considerable experience in teaching Classics and in assessment. She is currently contributing to the editing of Classical Greek assessment materials. georgia.peristeri@peoplecert.org

David Coniam is Head of Research at LanguageCert. He has been working and researching in language teaching, education and assessment for almost 50 years. His main publication and research interests are in language assessment, language teaching methodology and academic writing and publishing. david.coniam@peoplecert.org

Note

¹ The Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) has played a decisive role in the teaching and setting standard for initially European languages. The CEFR organises language proficiency in six levels, A1 to C2. These can be regrouped into three broad levels: Basic User, Independent User and Proficient User, with levels defined through 'can-do' descriptors. See <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/illustrations-of-levels>.

References

- Bachman LF and Palmer AS (2010) *Language assessment in practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bayerle H (2013) Team-based learning to promote the study of Greek. *Teaching Classical Languages* 5, 1–17.
- Bracke E (2015) Bringing classical languages into a modern classroom: Some reflections. *Journal of Classics Teaching* 16, 35–39.
- Cheng L (2005) *Changing language teaching through language testing: A washback study*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chrysopoulos P (2016) German Junior High School Students Study Ancient Greek. Available online: <https://greekreporter.com/2016/12/19/german-junior-high-school-students-study-ancient-greek/> (accessed 21 May 2021).
- Council of Europe (2001) *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment*. Strasbourg Cedex, France: Council of Europe.

- Daskalovska N and Dimova V** (2012) Why should literature be used in the language classroom? *Procedia-social and Behavioral Sciences* 46, 1182–1186.
- Dvorsky-Rohner D** (2008) Gaming in beginning Greek: Taking advantage of the six weeks' opportunity. *Teaching Classical Languages* 4, 15–29.
- ellines.** (2018) Uruguay is a fan of Greek culture. Available online: <https://www.ellines.com/en/good-news/39036-uruguay-is-a-fan-of-greek-culture/> (accessed 21 May 2021).
- fonien.** (2016) Ancient Greek is “cool” in German schools. Available online: Ancient Greek is “cool” in German schools - fonien.gr (accessed 21 May 2021).
- Foster F** (2018) Attitudes to ancient Greek in three schools: A case study. *The Language Learning Journal* 46, 159–172.
- Gibbs M** (2003) The place of classics in the curriculum of the future. In Morwood J (ed), *The teaching of classics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gruber-Miller J** (2006) Communication, context, and community. Integrating the standards in the Greek and Latin classroom. In Gruber-Miller J (ed) *When dead tongues speak: Teaching beginning Greek and Latin*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Harding L** (2014) Communicative language testing: Current issues and future research. *Language Assessment Quarterly* 11, 186–197.
- Hill RS** (2021) A conventiculum for speakers of Ancient Greek: The Lexington Σύνοδος Ἑλληνική. In Lloyd ME and Hunt S (eds), *Communicative Approaches for Ancient Languages*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Holmes-Henderson A, Hunt S and Musié M** (eds), (2018) *Forward with classics: Classical languages in schools and communities*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Hunt S** (2018) Getting classics into schools? Classics and the social justice agenda of the coalition government 2010–2015. In Holmes-Henderson A, Hunt S and Musié M (eds), *Forward with classics: Classical languages in schools and communities*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Hunt S** (2021) Active Latin teaching for the inclusive classroom. In Lloyd ME and Hunt S (eds), *Communicative approaches for ancient languages*. London: Bloomsbury.
- LanguageCert.org** (2021) Exam Information. Available online: <https://www.languagecert.org/en/language-exams/classical-greek> (accessed 21 May 2021).
- Lloyd ME** (2021) Exploring communicative approaches for beginners. In Lloyd ME and Hunt S (eds), *Communicative approaches for ancient languages*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Lloyd ME and Hunt S** (eds) (2021) *Communicative approaches for ancient languages*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Mahoney A** (2004) The forms you really need to know. *Classical Outlook* 81, 101–105.
- Major W** (2018) Recontextualizing the teaching of ancient Greek within the new standards for classical language learning. *Teaching Classical Languages* 9, 54–63.
- Manning L** (2021) Active Latin in the classroom: Past, present and future. In Lloyd ME and Hunt S (eds), *Communicative approaches for ancient languages*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Mitchell R, Myles F and Marsden E** (eds), (2019) *Second language learning theories*. New York: Routledge.
- Moore T** (2013) Song in the Greek classroom. *Teaching Classical Languages* 4, 66–85.
- Morwood J** (ed) (2003) *The teaching of classics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nielson M** (2018) The grammar-translation method and the communicative approach: Combining second language acquisition approaches to teach Lucan and Statius in high school. Doctoral dissertation. Arizona: The University of Arizona.
- Paltridge B** (1992) EAP placement testing: An integrated approach. *English for Specific Purposes* 11, 243–268.
- Pettersson D and Rosengren A** (2021) The Latinitium Project. In Lloyd ME and Hunt S (eds), *Communicative Approaches for Ancient Languages*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Richards J and Rodgers T** (2014) *Approaches and methods in language teaching*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rind I and Mari M** (2019) Analysing the impact of external examination on teaching and learning of English at the secondary level education. *Cogent Education* 6, 1.
- Statista** (2021) Share of students enrolled at upper secondary schools in Italy for the academic year 2019/2020, by type of lyceum. Available online: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/572827/share-of-enrollment-in-upper-secondary-schools-italy-by-type-of-school/> (accessed 21 May 2021).
- Taylor J** (2003) Learning Greek. In Morwood J (ed), *The teaching of classics*, 95–105. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Van Bommel B** (2016) Classics between prosperity and crisis: Greek and Latin education in 21st-century Holland. Available online: <https://www.addisco.nl/classics-between-prosperity-and-crisis-greek-and-latin-education-in-21st-century-holland/> (accessed 21 May 2021).

Appendix 1: LTCG Reading Subskills and Topic Specifications (from *LTCG Qualification Handbook*)

A1	A2
<p>Reading subskills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand very short simple narratives and descriptions find and obtain specific, predictable information in simple texts recognise the purpose of short texts where the purpose and intended audience is clear. understand viewpoints if made clearly and simply. <p>Vocabulary range features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand very familiar words and phrases in simple short text understand isolated words, short simple phrases and grammatical structures that link clauses and help identify time reference understand the meanings conveyed by capital letters and full stops in very simple sentences. identify time reference (present-future) <p>Text structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the organisational, lexical and grammatical features of short simple texts 	<p>Reading subskills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand simple narratives and descriptions on familiar topics recognise the different purposes of text provided the purpose and intended audience is clear locate specific predictable information in everyday short texts on familiar matters understand a simple line of argument simply expressed understand the main ideas and gist of simple narratives <p>Vocabulary range features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise high frequency words and words with common spelling patterns in simple texts understand punctuation and capitalisation used in simple and compound sentences recognise key grammatical forms such as noun declensions, verb tenses, infinitives and participles identify time reference (past-present-future) in short simple narratives and descriptions <p>Text structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise different purposes of simple texts

A1	A2
Topics	Topics (building on A1 specs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • daily life • education • food and drink • free time, entertainment • health and bodycare • house and home, environment • language • measures and shapes • personal identification • places • relations with other people • travel • weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • height • length • weight • capacity • personal comfort • fitness, nutrition • eating and drinking out

Appendix 2: LTCG Grammar and Syntax Specifications (from LTCG Qualification Handbook)

A1	A2 (building on A1 specs)
Alphabet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letters of Classical Greek
Syllables – accentuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • syllables • accentuation
Parts of speech / syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inflected parts of speech • uninflected parts of speech • subject – verb – object • predicate
Verb forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present reference: thematic, athematic verbs • present tense: active/middle voice, indicative of Εἶμι, Ἰύω and common regular verbs • future reference • future tense: active/middle voice, indicative of Εἶμι, Ἰύω and common regular verbs • future tense of athematic verbs • past reference • imperfect tense: syllabic, temporal augment • imperfect tense, active/middle voice, indicative of Εἶμι and common verbs • aorist tense: syllabic, temporal augment • aorist tense, active/middle voice, indicative of Εἶμι and common verbs • perfect tense: reduplication, temporal augment • perfect tense, active/middle voice, indicative of common verbs
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gender • number • case • 1st, 2nd and specific 3rd declension nouns • irregular nouns • irregular nouns
Pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal pronouns – verb subject • interrogative pronouns • indefinite pronouns
Prepositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepositions
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definite article
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd declension: two-ending, three-ending adjectives • 3rd declension: two-ending, three-ending adjectives • 3rd declension: nasal and liquid adjectives
Infinitives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active/ middle voice of present tense of infinitives • active/ middle voice of future tense and first aorist of infinitives
Participles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active/ middle voice of present tense of participles • active/ middle voice of future and first aorist tense of participles

Appendix 3: Sample Can-do Statements for CEFR Levels A1 and A2

A1	A2 (building on A1 specs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can recognise and read familiar words. • I can read short simple texts and understand simple information. • I can get an idea of the content of simpler informational material and short simple descriptions. • I can control a few simple grammatical structures and syntax patterns in a learnt repertoire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can understand the main points and locate specific information in short simple texts on familiar matters. • I can recognise high-frequency words and words with common spelling patterns on familiar topics. • I can work out the probable meaning of unknown words from the context. • I can understand texts describing people, places, everyday life, and culture, etc., provided that they are written in simple language.

Appendix 4: A2 Classical Greek Sample Paper



LanguageCert

A2

Test of Classical Greek

Practice Test A2

Candidate's name (block letters please)

Centre no Date

Time allowed:

- Reading and Language Use 80 minutes

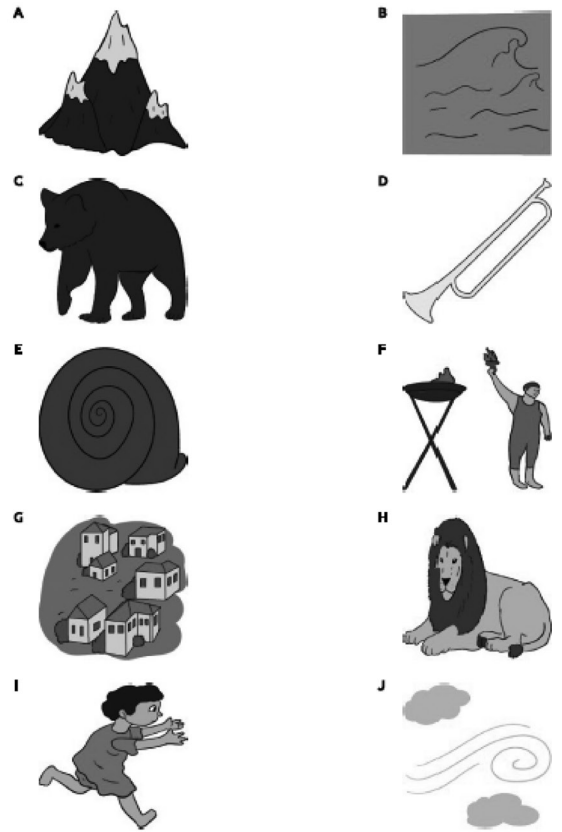
Instructions to Candidates

- An Answer Sheet will be provided.
- All answers must be transferred to the Answer Sheet.
- Please use a soft pencil (2B, HB).

Practice Test A2

Part 1

Look at the images below. Match the images (A-J) to the words.



Practice Test A2

1. λέων
2. κοχλίας
3. παῖς
4. ἄρκτος
5. ὄρος
6. ἄστυ
7. ἀῆρ
8. ὕδωρ
9. θαλασσοχώρας
10. σάλπιγξ

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Practice Test A2

Part 2

Look at the image and then read the statements. Choose the correct answer True or False for each statement according to the image.



Practice Test A2

1. Μία γυνή σκάπτει τήν γήν.
2. Παῖς προσέρχεται κρατῶν ἰσχάδας.
3. Ὁ ἀγρός γέμει ἐλαίων.
4. Τέρας ἴσταται ἐπὶ τὶ δένδρον.
5. Παρακεμένη κρήνη ἀνευ ὕδατος ἐστί.
6. Ἐν τῇ εἰσόδῳ τοῦ σπηλαίου κῶων καὶ γαλή κελίται.
7. Ὁ καιρὸς αἰθριὸς ἐστί.
8. Οἱ γεωργοὶ τὰς ἐλαίας ραβδίζουσι.
9. Εἷς ἀνὴρ καθεύδει ὑπὸ πινος δένδρου.
10. Τινὲς ἐργάται ἀριστοποιοῦνται.

Practice Test A2

Part 3

Read the text. Choose the correct answers to complete the text.

Ὁ χειμὼν λίαν δευὴν ὥρα ἐστί. Τότε γὰρ πολλή (1) τοὺς ἀγρούς καλύπτει. Ἐν τῷ χειμῶνι καὶ οἱ γεωργοὶ καὶ οἱ ποιμένες ἠσυχίαν ἀγοῦσι. Οὔτε τοὺς ἀγρούς σπείρουσι διὰ τὴν πυκνὴν χιόνα, (2) τὰ πρόβατα νέμονται, ὅτι τροφή οὐκ ἐστὶν ἐν ταῖς ἀγροῖς. Οἱ δὲ ναῦται τὰ πλοῖα εἰς τοὺς (3) οὐ μόνον ἀγοῦσι ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐνταῦθα (4) μέχρι τοῦ ἔαρος. Οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν ἡμέρας ἢ θάλαττα καὶ θὰ τὸ ψύχος καὶ θὰ τοὺς χειμῶνας. Ἐν ταῖς οἰκίαις οἱ ἀνθρώποι μὲν ζύλα καιοῦσι καὶ τὸ πῦρ ἀπτοῦσιν, ἔξω (5) τοῦ οἴκου πυκνοὺς χιτῶνας φέρουσι καὶ τὰς κεφαλὰς καλοῦς καλύπτουσιν. Πολλὰκις δ' αἱ κατ' ἀγρὸν ὁδοὶ μεσοὶ χιόνος εἰσὶ καὶ οἱ ἀνθρώποι οὐ δύνανται (6) Οἱ δὲ λύκοι (7) τὸν λιμὸν ἐπὶ τὰς ἀγέλας τῶν προβάτων πίπτουσι, οὓς οἱ ποιμένες διώκουσι καὶ πολλὰκις ἀποκτείνουσι. Ὁ οὐρανὸς ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ταύτῃ βριβεῖ (8) νεφῶν καὶ ὁ ἥλιος σπανίως λάμπει. Πάντες (9) οἱ ἀνθρώποι, νέοι καὶ γέροντες, τὸν χειμῶνα βαρέως φέρουσι καὶ τὸ (10) μένουσι.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. a) ψύχος
b) χιὼν
c) λιθός | 8. a) μεγάλα
b) μεγάλου
c) μεγάλων |
| 2. a) ἢ
b) ἀλλὰ
c) οὔτε | 9. a) οὖν
b) ὥστε
c) καὶ |
| 3. a) λιμένα
b) λιμένας
c) λιμένους | 10. a) δέος
b) ἔαρ
c) τέρας |
| 4. a) μένομεν
b) μένουσιν
c) μένει | |
| 5. a) δε
b) οὖν
c) γὰρ | |
| 6. a) βαδίζεν
b) σκάπτειν
c) κτίζειν | |
| 7. a) ἐκ
b) διὰ
c) ἐν | |

Practice Test A2

Part 4

Read the text. Choose the correct words to complete the text. There are two extra words you will not need.

Ἡ χώρα τῆς Ἀττικῆς πέφυκεν πλείστας προσόδους παρέχεσθαι. Ὅπως δὲ γνωσθῆ ὅτι ἀληθὲς τοῦτο λέγω, πρῶτον διηγήσομαι τὴν φύσιν τῆς Ἀττικῆς. Αἱ μὲν ὥραι τοῦ ἔτους εἰσὶν πρῶτατα καὶ αὐτὰ τὰ γιγνόμενα μαρτυρεῖ τοῦτο: Πολλὰ φυτὰ οὖν βλαστάνειν (1) ἐνθάδε καὶ καρποφορεῖν. Ὡσπερ δὲ ἡ γῆ, οὕτω καὶ ἡ θάλαττα περὶ τὴν χώραν (2) ἐστί. Καὶ ὅσα οἱ θεοὶ ἀγαθὰ παρέχουσι, ταῦτα πάντα ἐνταῦθα πρωταῖα μὲν ἀρχεται, βραδέως δὲ (3) Οὐ μόνον δὲ κρατεῖ τοῖς ἐπ' ἑνιαυτὸν θάλλουσι τε καὶ (4) , ἀλλὰ καὶ αἰδία ἀγαθὰ ἔχει ἡ χώρα. Λίθοι ἐν αὐτῇ (5) εἰσιν, ἐξ ὧν κάλλιστοι μὲν ναοὶ, κάλλιστα θέατρα (6) , εὐπρεπέστατα δὲ θεῶν ἀγάλματα: πολλοὶ ἐξ ἄλλων χωρῶν θαυμάζουσι (7) Ἔστι δὲ καὶ γῆ ἡ σπειρομένη μὲν οὐ φέρει καρπὸν, ὀρυττομένη δὲ πολλαπλασίους τρέφει ἢ εἰ σῖτον ἔφερε. Καὶ ὑπάργυρός ἐστι σαφῶς θεῖα μοῖρα. Οὐδεμία τῶν ἐγγύς (8) ἔχει τοσαῦτα ἀγαθὰ. Εὐλόγως τις ἂν ἐνόμιζε οἰκεῖσθαι τὴν πόλιν ἀμφὶ τὰ μέσα τῆς Ἑλλάδος καὶ πάσης δὲ τῆς οἰκουμένης. Ὅσων γὰρ ἂν τινες πλέον (9) αὐτῆς, τοσοῦτω χαλεπωτέροις ἢ ψύχεσιν ἢ θάλαπσιν ἐντυγχάνουσι. Καὶ περὶ ῥυτος καὶ ἀμφιθάλαττος γὰρ ἐστί, ὥσπερ (10)

- A ὀρύττωσιν
- B μεγίστη
- C ἄφθονοι
- D ἀπέχουσι
- E δύνανται
- F νήσος
- G λήγει
- H γίνονται
- I γηράσκουσιν
- J πλοῦσια
- K πόλειον
- L ταῦτα