

SEC SYLLABUS (2026)

GREEK

SEC 17

SYLLABUS

Greek SEC 17 Syllabus	(Not available in September) Paper I (2 hrs): Verse+Prose + Paper II (2 hrs)
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Introduction

The syllabus which is here presented has been designed to lead to a teaching syllabus and scheme of examination which will provide:

- (a) a system which differentiates between candidates on the basis of positive achievement rather than failure;
- (b) a system which enables all candidates to gain grades according to their competence.

Aims

The aims of a course in Greek leading to the award of a Secondary Education Certificate should be:

- (a) to form a sound basis of skills, language, and attitudes required for further study;
- (b) to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of Ancient Greece;
- (c) to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

Assessment Objectives

The scheme of assessment will test:

- (a) the candidates' ability to understand Greek in written forms;
- (b) the candidates' ability to produce written material in Greek.

Scheme of Assessment

The examination will consist of two papers of two hours' duration each.

Paper I (100 marks): This paper is to be taken by all candidates. It will consist of two sections: A (verse) and B (prose). Candidates must attempt both sections.

Paper II (100 marks): There will be two versions of this paper: Paper IIA and Paper IIB. Candidates are required to indicate on the registration form which Paper II they wish to sit for. No change in the choice of paper will be allowed after the registration period. Paper IIA comprises more demanding questions than those in Paper IIB.

Results

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIA may qualify for a grade within the range 1 to 5 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); the results of candidates who do not obtain a Grade 5 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIB may qualify for a grade not higher than 4 (i.e. grades 4, 5, 6, 7); the results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Syllabus

Paper I

This paper will consist of two sections A and B. Candidates must attempt both sections.

Section A (50 marks)

A prescribed verse text. Passages are set and questions asked on them to test candidates' understanding of context, subject-matter, and simple grammatical and literary points. Candidates may be asked to translate parts of the set passages.

Section B (50 marks)

A prescribed prose text, candidates' knowledge of which will be tested as in Section A.

Set Texts

Prose: Xenophon of Ephesus, *An Ephesian Tale*. First ten chapters from Book 1 in Greek, and the rest of the chapters of the book in English.

Verse: Kennedy, E.C. (ed.), *Iphigenia in Aulis*, Bristol Classical Press., 0-906515-97-1, Verses 1-114, 303-414 (verse numbers as in the Oxford Classical Text) in Greek, the rest in English.

Paper IIA

Candidates will be asked to answer Questions 1, 2 and either 3 or 4 (three questions in all) from the following:

1. a short Greek prose passage for translation into English (30 marks)
2. a Greek prose passage with questions to test comprehension (30 marks)
3. another short but more difficult Greek prose passage or a verse passage, for translation into English (40 marks)
4. a choice of eight of ten English sentences for translation into Greek (40 marks)

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the following elements of syntax:
Common case usages, with or without prepositions; common expressions of place and time.

Use of verbs, including those governing the dative and ablative; prolative infinitive; use of participles, including genitive, verbal adjective.

Direct and indirect statements; direct and indirect questions; direct and indirect commands and petitions; purpose clauses; result clauses; relative clause; verbs of fearing; causal clauses; concessive clauses; common simple temporal clauses; easy examples of conditional clauses; use of personal, demonstrative, relative pronouns and adjectives; indefinite construction; exhortation; wish for the future and prohibitions.

Paper IIB

Candidates will be asked to answer Questions 1, 2, and either 3 or 4 (three questions in all) from the following:

1. an easy and short Greek prose passage for translation into English (30 marks)
2. an easy and short Greek prose passage with easy questions to test comprehension (30 marks)
3. another easy and short Greek prose or verse passage for translation into English (40 marks)
4. a choice of eight of ten simple English sentences for translation into Greek (40 marks)

Candidates are expected to be familiar with Greek grammar, and simple elements of Greek syntax, such as direct question, direct command, wish for the future, exhortation, prohibition, genitive absolute.

Suggested Text-books

Hillard, A.E. & Botting, C.G., *Elementary Greek Translation Book*, Duckworth, (Paper IIA & IIB)

Hillard, A.E. & Botting, C.G., *Elementary Greek Exercises*, Duckworth, (Paper IIA & IIB)

North, M.A. & Hillard, A.E., *Greek Prose Composition*, Duckworth, (Paper IIA)