

## AHCAAT marking scheme

Ancient History and Classical Archaeology Admissions Test (AHCAAT) consists of two questions: the first question asks for interpretation and critique of a short passage from an academic text, and the second question – to describe an image and answer a question about its use for historical interpretation. Both questions are weighted equally at 50 marks. There is no expectation of previous familiarity with either the passage from the academic text or with the image.

Credit will be given throughout for clarity and consistency of the candidate's own expression, and ability to organise their arguments with clarity, insight and efficiency. The marks for each question will be distributed as follows:

### **Question 1 (Analysis of an academic text)**

Up to 20 points for the summary of the arguments in the passage. Credit will be given for capturing the main ideas of the author and identifying their relative significance to the argument.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Oxford exam marking scale equivalent</b>
19-20	outstanding	80+
17-18	excellent	79–75
15-16	very good	74–70
13-14	good	69–67
11-12	promising	66–64
9-10	competent	63–61
7-8	adequate	60–58
5-6	Poor	57–51
3-4	Weak	50–45
1-2	very weak	44–

Up to 30 points for the critique of the argument in the passage. Credit will be given for identifying potential problems with the logic of the author's reasoning and with their use of primary evidence, recognition of nuances and ambiguities in the text.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Oxford exam marking scale equivalent</b>
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28-30	outstanding	80+
25-27	excellent	79–75
22-24	very good	74–70
19-21	good	69–67
16-18	promising	66–64
13-15	competent	63–61
10-12	adequate	60–58
7-9	poor	57–51
4-6	weak	50–45
1-3	very weak	44–

**Question 2 (Analysis of visual evidence)**

Up to 20 points for the description of the image. Credit will be given for completeness and precision of the description and for approaching the description in a systematic manner.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Oxford exam marking scale equivalent</b>
19-20	outstanding	80+
17-18	excellent	79–75
15-16	very good	74–70
13-14	good	69–67
11-12	promising	66–64
9-10	competent	63–61
7-8	adequate	60–58
5-6	poor	57–51
3-4	weak	50–45
1-2	very weak	44–

Up to 30 points for answering the question on its use for historical interpretation. Credit will be given for the ability to argue for potential uses of the image as historical evidence based on the information provided to the candidates, for recognition of possible ambiguities in interpretation, and for being attentive to the limitations of the source.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Oxford exam marking scale equivalent</b>
28-30	outstanding	80+
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19-21	good	69–67
16-18	promising	66–64
13-15	competent	63–61
10-12	adequate	60–58
7-9	poor	57–51
4-6	weak	50–45
1-3	very weak	44–