ANDREW’S HANDY DANDY VSF CERTAMEN LATIN 1 GUIDE WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTARY

**VERBA (English Words derived from Latin. These come up a surprising amount of times in questions like “from what latin word does this word come from”)**

**Ubiquitous**- everywhere. From ubique, meaning everywhere. (ASKED FAIRLY OFTEN)

**Perambulate**- to walk around, stroll. From ambulo and per, literally meaning walk through

**Sedentary**: stationary. Comes from sedeo

**Puerile**- childish, immature. From puer.

**Amicable**- friendly. From amicus.

**Clamorous**: noisy. From clamare, to shout

**Risible**- laughable, comical. From ridere, to laugh.

**Vociferous**- loud, noisy. From vox and fero (voice and carry)

Solicitous/solicit- anxious. From sollicitus (anxious)

**Magnanimous**–generous. From magnus and animus (great and mind)

Derivatives from mort: **mortician, mortify, mortal, mortgage, mortality**

**Deification**- to make into a god (for fun: greek word is apotheopoesis) from deus and facio (god and make/do)

**Junoesque**- queenlike. From juno, queen of the gods.

**Mercurial-** quick to change/emotional/bipolar. From mercury, messenger of the gods

**Auxiliary**- helping, supporting (troops, verbs)materials, gym, etc.) from auxilium (help)

**Manumission**- act of being freed. From manus and mittere (hand and send) “to send by the hand”

**Saturnine**- gloomy. From Saturn

**Contemporaneous**- with time, at the same time. From con (together) and tempus (time)

**Solstice**: longest/shortest day of the year (12/21 and 6/21). From sto, stare (to stand) and sol (sun)

**Equinox**: day and night are equal. From aequus (equal) and nox (night)

**Domicile**: a house (noun). From domus, domus (f, 4th declension) meaning house

**Taciturn-** silent (in a grumpy way) from taceo, meaning to be quiet

**Tenacious**- determined. From teneo, tenere to hold

**Hubris**- excessive pride. Greek word.

**Omniscient**- all knowing. From omnis and scio (all and know)

**Omnipotent**- all powerful. From omnis and possum (all and to be able)

**Procrastinate:** you know what this means. From pro (for) cras (tomorrow) teneo (hold)

**Pulchritudinous-** beautiful. From pulcher pulchra pulchrum meaning beautiful

**Verbose**- wordy. From verbum (word) and –osus (full of)

**Amorous-** loving. From amor amoris

**Amoral**- lack of morals

**Belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious**- combative, warlike (bellum = war, gero = wear, pugnare = to fight)

**Plenipotentiary-** a diplomat with full power (full and power)

Words from loq/locu (speak): **loquacious** (talkative) **soliloquy** (solo speech) **colloquial** (speak together informally) **circumlocution** (talking around something) **eloquent** (speaking out)

**Cupidity**- greed, especially for money. From cupio cupere meaning to desire

**Appellation**- name. from appello appellare meaning to to name

**Onerous**- burdensome, cumbersome. (from onus, oneris, n. meaning load/burden)

**Philanthropy**- out of doing good/helping. From phil (love) and anthro (man/mankind)

**Irrevocable**- not able to call back (vocare = to call, ir- = not, re- = back)

**Impecunious**- poor (im = not, pecunia = money)

**Cerulean**- sky clue. From caerulus meaning blue

**Obfuscate**- to confuse, cloud. From fuscus meaning brown

**Dolorous**- mournful (from dolor meaning sadness, doleo meaning to be sad)

**Perennial**- yearly, occurring through the year (from annus = year, per = through)

**Inexplicable-** not able to be explained (in = not, explico means to explain)

**Edifice**- monumental building (aedificium = building) NOTE: in many English words the diphthong –ae turns to just an e.

**Lethargy**- sluggish, lacking energy (from lethe, the river in the underworld)

**Docile**- easily taught (from doceo docere, to teach)

**Penultimate**- second to last (paene = almost, ultimus = last)

**Oratory**- art of speaking (oro, orare = to pray)

**SCRIPTUM (LATIN SAYINGS. These are more important than the verba. Most important will be marked)**

**Carpe Diem!** – Seize the day. Imperative verb! (said by Horace)

**Tempus fugit!** Time flies. Also said by Horace.

**Semper Paratus (Always Prepared) –** Coast Guard motto. **IMPORTANT**

**e.g (exempli gratia)** for the sake of example **IMPORTANT**

**i.e. (id est)** that is **IMPORTANT**

**etc. (et cetera)** and others **IMPORTANT**

**N.B. (Nota bene)** note well! **IMPORTANT**

**A.D. (Anno Domini)** in the year of our lord. NOTE: DOES NOT MEAN AFTER DEATH. **IMPORTANT**

**Veni, Vidi, Vici. (I came, I saw, I conquered)** said by Caesar (after battle of Zela, but you probably don’t have to know that 47BC). All forms are the singular first person perfect form (special kind of past tense) **IMPORTANT**

**a.u.c (ab urbe condita, from the founding of the city)** years from the founding of the city. This is how the romans counted years, since they didn’t know about Jesus.

**IMPORTANT**

**RIP (requiescat in pace, rest in peace)** literally “let him rest in peace”, but that is jussive subjunctive and you do NOT need to know that for a long time

**SPQR (Senatus Populusque Romanus)**: if you don’t know this you should be ashamed. –que is an enclitic, meaning “and.” Motto of Rome. **IMPORTANT**

**Arma virumque cano (I sing of arms and a man)** opening lines of the Aeneid, who was written by Vergil aka “the Verge” (NOT VIRGIL. VIRGIL IS NOT A THING). Arms is referring to the Trojan War. **OH SO IMPORTANT**

**Sic Semper Tyrannis (thus always to tyrants)** Motto of Virginia! Tyrannis is dative plural. Essentially means (death to tyrants)

**Tabula rasa (clean slate)**: nothing important, but good to know I guess.

**Cogito ergo sum (I think therefore I am) –Rene Descartes** he was a French philosopher. It’s a pretty well known saying. **KINDA IMPORTANT**

**Io Saturnalia!** **(Yay Saturnalia!)** The roman equivalent of “Merry Christmas”

**“Homo doctus in se semper divitas habet”-Phaedrus** A learned man always has riches in himself. Said by a Greek slave. Not really important, but a cool saying.

**Ad Astra Per Aspera (to the stars through difficulties) MOTTO OF KANSAS**

TESTED OFTEN, **IMPORTANT**

**Cave Canem! (Beware the Dog)** Imperative saying. It would be put on signs, kidn of like a “no trespassing” thing. **IMPORTANT**

**Festina lente! (Hurry slowly)** a favorite saying of Augustus. More imperatives! **IMPORTANT**

**Nemo est supra leges (No one is above the law)** not that important, not gonna lie, you can kinda guess the meaning from the saying.

**Ipsa scientia potestas est (Knowledge itself is power)** –Sir Francis Bacon. Not much going on here.

**Errare humanum est (to err is human)** –Erasmus (not really need to know stuff)

**Ningat! (Let it snow!)** Jussive subjunctive again! The most important thing to take away from this is the verb to snow.

**A.M, P.M (ante meridiem, post meridiem)** before noon, after noon. Note that even though it’s a time word, it’s accusative and not ablative, because it goes with accusative prepositions. **IMPORTANT**

**Verb. Sat. sap (Verbum satis sapientibus, a word to the wise is enough)** not important

**Amor Omnia vincit! –Vergil** love conquers all. Motto of Oklahoma is **labor Omnia vincit**. **IMPORTANT**

**Cf. (confer) –** means compare. **IMPORTANT**

**Dum spiro, spero (while I breathe, I hope) MOTTO OF SOUTH CAROLINA**, fairly trivial

**Mens sana in corpore sano (Juvenal, a sound/healthy mind in sound/healthy body)**- fairly important

**Ientaculum, prandium, cena , secunda mensa (breakfast, lunch, dinner, desert “second table”)**  desert was called second table cause they would literally bring a second table. **THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT**

**PANEM ET CIRCENSES- JUVENAL (BREAD AND CIRCUSES):** THIS PHRASE IS USED SO DAMN MUCH EVEN IN LATIN TWO CERTAMEN IT IS JUST STUPID. It essentially means that if you give the Roman people enough bread and circuses, you can treat them really really bad and they won’t care. **MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

**Facta non verba (Actions not words)** eh

**Non nobis solem nati sumus** **(We are not born for ourselves alone)** –important to keep in mind: you’re not the center of the world. We have dative here, and either passive or deponent (you’ll learn about those later, ask the Conk if you have questions).

**Mea culpa (my blame, “my bad”) IMPORTANT**

**Caelum no animum mutant, qui trans mare currunt.** (They change their sky not their mind, those who run across the sea -Horace) Honestly, I have no idea what this means but I think it’s something like you can’t run from your own problems.

**Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.** –Seneca (who was a stoic philosopher, very Roman. Stoics were basically believers in hard work and difficulty) “There is no soft way from the earth to the stars”

**Magnum Opus- Great work** Vergil’s magnum opus is the Aeneid, etc. (from opus, operis, n. this word is where we get opera, literally “works. NOTE THAT THIS WORD, EVEN THOUGH IT ENDS IN US, IS NEUTER, NOT MASCULINE. THE GENITIVE DECIDES EVERYTHING) **IMPORTANT**

**Ars gratia artis (art for the sake of art)** motto of MGM. **IMPORTANT (not the fact that it’s MGM’s motto, but the saying itself)**

**Rident stolidi verba Latina! –Ovid (Fools laugh at the latin language)** not that important, but very true

**Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful)** – Marine Motto. **IMPORTANT**

**Ars longa, vita brevis (art is long, life is short)** kinda like the saying pain is temporary victory is forever. Something interesting is the complete lack of “est.” This is called ellipsis and you will hate it with a burning passion because Latin writers love to omit words. **IMPORTANT**

**Rx (the prescription thing, it means Recipe (reh cih pe, not like a cookbook)), or take back.** Another imperative. **IMPORTANT**

**Amicus omnibus amicus nemini. (A friend to all is a friend to none)** eh

**Veritas vos Liberabit (the truth will set you free) –Motto of Johns Hopkins**

**Veritas (Truth) – Motto of Harvard**

**Lux et Veritas (Light and Truth) – Motto of Yale**

**IMPORTANT**

**O tempora! O mores! –Cicero (Oh the times! Oh the morals!)** This is actually a really famous saying. Cicero is lamenting the tumultuous times and the wicked morals of Rome at that time. **IMPORTANT**

**FACTA (FACTS) These are really useful. I will also throw in a little extra information and commentary. Cheers!**

* **5 Romance Languages:** Romanian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian
* **3 Periods of Roman History:** Monarchy (753 BC), Republic (509 BC), Empire (476 AD)
* **5 Classes of Romans (high to low):** Patricians, Equestrians, Plebeians, Freed Slaves, Slaves
* **Romulus founded Rome on the Palatine Hill in 753 BC, first of seven kings.**
* **Fasces: (where we get the word fascism) long rods w/ an axe blade, symbol of power.** Carried by people called “lictors”
* **Apennines: “the backbone of Italy” mountain range.** In Latin: Appininus Mons.
* **Mare Nostrum:** Mediterranean Sea, means our sea (nickname).
* **Seven Hills of Rome:** Palatine, Aventine, Capitoline (big 3), Caelian, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline
* **Romans traced their lineage to Aeneas.** Subject of the Aeneid, went on a journey similar to Odysseus. His son, Ascanius/Iulus, founded Alba Longa. Married Lavinia.
* **-que, -ne: ENCLITICS.**  NOTE THAT QUE SEPERATES THE WORD IT IS A PART OF FROM THE OTHER WORDS. Example: SPQR, senatus populusque romanus: romanus modifies people not senate.
* **Publius Vergilius Maro, aka Vergil:** epic poet, wrote the Aeneid.
* **Rape of the Sabine Women (very famous statue. Although, if you google it make sure your parents aren’t behind you. It’s in Florence near the David if you ever go there. MAGNIFICENT.)** So, when Romulus decided IM GOING TO MAKE A CITY ON THIS HILL, he rounded up a bunch of outcasts to form his city. However, he soon realized he had NO WOMEN. This sucked and also would not allow them to produce children. THEREFORE, he invited the Sabine people to dinner, and at night STOLE ALL THE WOMEN AS WIVES (Mr. stealyogirl). The next day, the indignant Sabines came back and were about to start a war, but the women said “we do not wish to lose our brothers and our husbands on the same day,” and they let the Romans keep the women in return for the Sabine King (Titus Tatius) co-ruling Rome.
* **NUMA POMPILIUS:** the religious king. Peaceful! Created the role of the Pontifex Maximus (chief priest), Vestal Virgins for Rome. He was rumored to have married a water nymph (Egeria, but that is literally only for SUPER hardcore Certamen questions. Just know he was the religious dude)
* **Pileus: a white felt hat worn by a slave after manumission (being saved)** He wore it for a period time so everyone could know he was a slave and he wouldn’t get randomly snatched and returned to his master. Kinda looked like a felt party hat (the cones, you feel).
* **Roman names: praenomen, nomen, cognomen.** First name = praenomen, others are based on family. Agnomen is a nickname (africanus for Scipio) Girls are named after the cognomen, aka Julius to Julia. If you had multiple daughters, you would name them “first Julia, second Julia, etc.” Sucks for Julia.
* **Tullus Hostilius (look at the name lmao):** He was hostile. He destroyed Alba Longa. Because he was a ginormous jerk and one day screwed up his sacrifices he got hit by lightning from Jupiter (at least that’s how the story goes.)
* **Saturnalia: ROMAN CHRISTMAS. IF A ROMAN HOLIDAY IS MENTIONED, THERE IS A VERY LARGE CHANCE IT IS SATURNALIA. So, know some of the traditions.** Slaves and masters would trade places, and the masters would serve dinner. Gifts would be exchanged. Everyone wore a pileus (the felt hats).
* **Ancus Martius/Marcius (it varies): built Ostia (port city near Rome), built the bridge across the Tiber (pons sublicius)**
* **Tarquinius Priscus (Tarquin the Old):** drained the Forum. The forum used to be disgusting. It was literally a swamp (actually important fact I think). Well this guy drained it. He was not an ass, and did not do much.
* **Servius Tullius: “the slave king”** when he was born, a ring of fire appeared above his head, meaning he would be king. He was really well liked, and built walls around the city. He established the class system. He had a daughter named Tullia, who was a terrible person and married the seventh king. She ran him over with a carriage.
* **Tarquinius Superbus (tarquin the proud):** asshole. He was an ass. He married Tullia, and they plotted to overthrow Servius Tullius; his son, Sextus (the name matches the crime), raped Lucretia and then the people, led by Collatinus and Brutus, rose up and overthrew the monarchy. They would become the first two consuls.
* **Rome never had snow.** Nero ordered ice for his drinks, a rather new habit. (not important, but she gave it to us)
* **Horatii (and the Curiatii) Three brothers vs three brothers. In the old days, wars were settled by having the best soldiers fight the best soldiers (**[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2BxJoWgoyo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2BxJoWgoyo) **).** During the war between Rome and Alba Longa, The Horiatii were Roman and the Curiatii were Alba Longan. Quickly the Horiatii were down to one man, but the three Curiatii were slightly wounded. The last of the Horiatii was clever and isolated each soldier one on one instead of a group fight and won. Interestingly, the sisters of the HOriatii were married to the Curiatii, and the sisters got killed cause they didn’t root for Rome, #foolish
* **Lupercalia was kind of like the Roman’s valentine day in that it was around the same time, but it was like…. Fifty times kinkier.** As you can probably tell from the name, it has to do with wolves. It was a fertility festival. Men would wear wolfskins and carry bloody pieces of meat (sacrifices goat and dog) and run around slapping women with these chunks (like a really kinky kind of tag). Apparently, if you got hit with a bloody piece of meat you would get pregnant. It was celebrated at the Lupercal, where Romulus and Remus were suckled by a wolf.
* **Mucius Scaevola: A SPY. He was sent to kill the Etruscan king, Lars Porsenna. He killed the wrong dude and was captured. In a demonstration of loyalty, he burned off his right hand.**  Lars Porsenna (who is kind of dumb, and you will see this later) was so impressed he sent Scaevola back to Rome. Nice!
* **The Cursus Honorum:** The roman track of political offices
  + **Consul:** highest. Two of them each with veto power. If they didn’t like each other this could be a problem, as they would veto the heck out of anything. Imagine if congress today was like that. Sheesh. If things got bad and the consuls were like that, a temporary dictator could be appointed.
  + **Praetor:** Judges
  + **Aedile: OPTIONAL, BUT HELLA USEFUL.** They planned games and public works. Julius Caesar, while aedile, racked up a huge debt setting up lots of public games but in the process became unbelievably popular and that helped him later.
  + **Quaestor: Finance dudes/accountants**
  + All are 1 year position
* **Horatius: IF YOU EVER HEAR THE WORD SINGLEHANDEDLY. IT IS THIS MAN. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.** Actually no, but there is a good 95% chance it will be this man. He singlehandedly fought an army and prevented them from crossing the Tiber. He cut the bridge while on their side, fought them for a while, SWAM ACROSS THE RIVER IN FULL ARMOR AND SURVIVED. THIS GUY IS BASICALLY ACHILLES.
* **Cloelia (FEMALE ROMAN HERO. LIKE THE ONLY ONE. BUT STILL! Statue of her in the Forum)**: not to be confused with Cloaca. Cloaca means sewer. Cloelia and a bunch of other women were kidnapped but she ed the escape. Porsenna got mad and demanded the leader back. CLOELIA WENT BACK. Lars Porsenna (sound familiar?????) WAS SO IMPRESSED BY HER BRAVERY HE SENT HER BACK. #foolish #twice
* **CINCINATTUS (Cincinnati was named after him). IF YOU EVER HEAR THE WORDS RETURNED TO THE PLOW IT IS THIS MAN. NO QUESTIONS.** He was chosen as dictator but denied absolute power after he solved a crisis very quickly (TEN DAYS WOW), retunring to his plow. Like George Washington.
* **ROADS:** 
  + **Via Appia:** The Appian Way. The queen of the roads, regina viae. ITS HUGE.
  + **Via Sacra:** went through the forum. Route taken after victories, to the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus (not a joke)
* **Admetus and Alcestis.** This story is really long. But it’s cute. Look it up.
* **When Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon, he started the Civil War.** He said, “alea iacta est” and marched against Pompet in 49 BC.
* **The first triumvirate: Three dudes who kinda colluded to make a superalliance. Like the Big Three in the NBA, except in politics. Crassus had the cash, Pompey had the army, and Julius Caesar had the popularity.**
* **Twelve tables: written by ten men (the decemviri). The laws of Rome, written in 400 BC, written law. 12 bronze tablets. Later codified in the Byzantine Empire (justinian’s code)**
* **Rome’s Birthday: April 21.** You better know that year.
* **Underworld FACTS:**
  + **5 rivers: Styx (Hate), Cocytus (wailing), Acheron (Woe), Phlegethon (Fire), and Lethe (forgetfulness)**
  + **Charon is the Ferryman**
  + **Achilles was dipped in the styx by the heel, invincible**
  + **Breaking a swear on the river styx will KILL YOU**
  + **Tartarus is where the bad people go. It’s a deeeeeeeeep pit.**
  + **Elysium is where the good people go!**
  + **Fields of Asphodel is where normal people go.**
  + **In *Dante’s Inferno,* Vergil is the guide to the underworld**
  + **Guardian of the underworld: Cerberus**
  + **FAMOUS INHABITANTS**
    - **Tantalus. Killed his children, made them into soup, fed them to the gods. Put in a pool of water he could never drink, near a vine of grapes he could never eat.**
    - **Sisyphus- tried to cheat death. Forever rolling a rock up a hill**
    - **Ixion: tried to rape Hera. Put as the spokes on a wheel that was on fire, and this wheel is ROLLING. OUCH.**
    - **Danaids: this is really dumb. 49/50 sisters killed their husbands on their wedding day. They have to try to fill up a water jugs that has holes in it (hint. It is impossible)**
* **Prometheus: Titan of foresight.** Stole fire, gave to man. The gods liked men in the dark because then they were totally dependent on the gods. The gods were not happy. They chained him to a rock where a eagle/vulture/LARGE BIRD ate his liver out every day, until Hercules killed it. The gods also gave Pandora to his farmer brother, Epimetheus. We all know how that turned out ☹.
* **First Punic War (264-241) CARTHAGE AND ROME ROUND 1.** Rome wins. Significant for the naval battles. When Rome won, they got Sicily. **CERTAMEN PLAYERS: THE CORVUS WAS A DEVICE (basically a ladder that they dropped onto other ships) USED TO BOARD OTHER SHIPS THAT ROMANS DEVELOPED DURING THE WAR.**
* **Signs of the Zodiac: ANIMALS**
  + **Taurus:**  bull
  + **Cancer:** crab
  + **Capricorn:** goat (Amalthea, the goat who nursed Zeus. Long story)
  + **Pisces:** fish
  + **Scorpio:** Scorpion. Duh.
  + **Aries:** Ram. (Jason and the golden fleece)
  + **Leo: lion**
* **Aqueducts: First one was the Aqua Appia.** Built by Appius Claudius in 312 BC. By the first c AD, 9 aqueducts supplied water to Rome. The most famous one is in France (Port du gard)
* **CICERO: THE GREATEST ORATOR OF ROME IS YOUR KEYWORD.** Great lawyer, earned fame in his speeches against Catiline. He was a novus homo (new man), the first man in his family to gain political office. He was a contemporary of Caesar. In 63 BC he did the Catiline thing and was named a Pater Patriae, the father of the country (big title). Marc Antony didn’t like him and placed a bounty on him. His head and hands were nailed to the **Rostra, the speaker’s platform.** His tongue was also nailed there. Gross.

**HOLY CRAP THAT WAS LONG. If you have any questions, FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME A QUESTION AT** [**2016ahuang@tjhsst.edu**](mailto:2016ahuang@tjhsst.edu)**. Also, feel free to add me on FB (Andrew Huang) and I can try to answer any question you have! GOOD LUCK.**