

Yale Certamen 2024

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Novice — Preliminary Round One

1. Who is excited to play Certamen today? What Latin interrogative pronoun would start that sentence to translate “who”?

QUIS / QUI / QUAE

B1: Why is it so hard to be the first to buzz? What Latin interrogative means “why”?

CŪR / QUĀRĒ / QUAMOBREM / QUID

B2: When will we hear the first question about Julius Caesar? What Latin interrogative starting with **qu-** means “when”?

QUANDŌ
2. Translate the following sentence from Latin to English: “**Titus currēbat ad forum cum amīcīs.**”

TITUS WAS RUNNING TO THE FORUM WITH HIS FRIENDS

B1: Now translate this sentence from Latin to English: “**Nunc Titus vīvit sine amīcīs.**”

NOW TITUS LIVES WITHOUT FRIENDS

B2: Now translate this sentence from Latin to English: “**Ego mox novus amīcus Titi erō.**”

SOON I WILL BE TITUS’S NEW FRIEND
3. What deity swore off nectar and ambrosia in a bout of grief and brought about famine for mortals as she wandered the Earth in search of her abducted daughter, Persephone?

DEMETER

B1: Persephone was forced to remain in the underworld after she consumed what fruit?

POMEGRANATE

B2: In her search for Persephone, Demeter came to what city, where she attempted to immortalize the infant Demophoon and set up famous mysteries?

ELEUSIS
4. What animal was seen by Acca Larentia’s husband, Faustulus, gently licking two boys who had been exposed near the Tiber River and were soon given the names Romulus and Remus?

(SHE-)WOLF

B1: Who ordered Romulus and Remus to be exposed after their birth?

AMULIUS

B2: Amulius was king of what city?

5. What two-word Latin phrase meaning “to the person” refers to a logical fallacy in which you attack the presenter of an idea rather than the idea itself?

AD HOMINEM

B1: What two-word Latin phrase used frequently in English literally means “after death”?

POST MORTEM

B2: What two-word phrase used frequently in English is literally a Latin phrase in the nominative meaning “the other me”?

ALTER EGO

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What emperor had to deal with Boudicca’s revolt, but generally preferred musical contests to the duties of ruling, leading in 64 A.D. to the rumor that he “fiddled while Rome burned”?

NERO

B1: What is the Latin name for the structure that Nero erected in the burned-out husks of central Rome?

DOMUS AUREA / COLOSSUS

B2: In 65 A.D., what man led a failed *coup d’etat* against Nero and enlisted the aid of figures such as Seneca in a namesake “conspiracy”?

(GAIUS CALPURNIUS) PISO

7. What mythological creature, whose sibling is Chrysaor, did Perseus inadvertently help create after he decapitated Medusa, resulting in the birth of a winged horse?

PEGASUS

B1: What hero managed to tame Pegasus after falling asleep in a temple of Athena and waking up to the gift of a golden bridle?

BELLEROPHON(TES)

B2: Chrysaor later fathered what other monster, a three-bodied creature living on Erytheia who was defeated by Heracles in his 10th labor?

GERYON

8. “Feasible,” “defect,” “faction,” and “facile” are all derived from what Latin verb with what meaning?

FACIŌ – TO {DO / MAKE}

B1: What derivative of **faciŏ** means “achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense” and can refer to an ideal market in economics?

EFFICIENT [DO NOT ACCEPT “EFFECTIVE”]

B2: What derivative of **faciŏ** means “an outward appearance maintained to conceal a less pleasant or creditable reality”?

FAÇADE

9. In the same year as Corinth’s destruction, what city was not saved by its general Hasdrubal from being destroyed by Scipio Aemilianus, ending the third and final Punic War?

CARTHAGE

B1: According to a late and unreliable legend, what act did Romans perform on the ruins of Carthage to ensure that nothing could ever grow there again?

{PLOWED / SOWED} THE {FIELDS / SITE} WITH SALT // SALTED THE EARTH

B2: In what year B.C. were both Carthage and Corinth sacked?

146 (B.C.)

10. Listen carefully to the following passage about a mouse, which I will read twice, and answer in **English** the questions that follow:

Parvus mūs domum in arbore fēcit quod hiems veniēbat. Sed ventī domum dēlēvērunt. Tum mūs frīgīdus erat. Ēheu.

The question: Because of winter's approach, what did the mouse make, which the passage calls a **domus** in Latin?

A HOUSE

B1: After the house's destruction, how did the mouse feel according to the passage?

COLD

B2: What destroyed the house?

WIND(S)

****SCORE CHECK****

11. What child of Idmon was warned against excessive hubris by an old woman before being out-competed by that disguised deity — Minerva — and being punished for her weaving ability by becoming a spider?

ARACHNE

B1: In their contest, Arachne depicted what group and their misdeeds, which contrasted with their triumphs as woven by Minerva?

THE GODS [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

B2: One of the many images Arachne depicted was Jupiter's rape of what woman, the mother of Perseus, in the form of a rain of gold?

DANAE

12. Translate the following sentence from English to Latin: "Sextus is walking happily."

SEXTUS AMBULAT {LAETĒ / LAETUS}

B1: Now translate this sentence into Latin: "You will sing well."

{CANĒS / CANTĀBIS} BENE

B2: Now translate this sentence into Latin: "Octavia is shouting angrily and Julia is laughing."

OCTĀVIA CLĀMAT {ĪRĀTĒ / ĪRĀTA} ET IŪLIA RĪDET

13. What Thracian man led a revolt that began with gladiators escaping their school and was ended by Crassus, cutting off any hope that Italy's enslaved people might overthrow their masters?

SPARTACUS

B1: After the revolt, 6,000 of Spartacus's followers were crucified on what famous road?

APPIAN WAY // **VIA APPIA**

B2: Spartacus's revolt originated in what Campanian city, which had been heavily involved in the First Samnite War and was the original endpoint of the Appian Way?

CAPUA

14. What son of Oeagrus was so devastated by the snakebite that killed his wife that he charmed Persephone with his song, but lost his chance when he looked backwards at Eurydice?

ORPHEUS

B1: Orpheus's song was so charming that what man stopped spinning in his wheel of fire in the Underworld to listen to him?

IXION

B2: According to Ovid, Orpheus vented his grief over losing Eurydice a second time by singing a long song with many stories. Which figure in Orpheus's song built a statue of a beautiful woman, then begged Venus to bring her to life?

PYGMALION

15. What is the meaning of the Latin word **sella**, on which one might perform the action of **sedēre**?

SEAT / CHAIR / STOOL

B1: What is the meaning of the Latin word **mēnsa**?

TABLE

B2: The verb **stō** means "to stand" as in "he is standing there"; what Latin verb means "to stand up"?

SURGŌ

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What body of water could be exited in the west via the Pillars of Heracles, contained the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic seas, and was essentially encircled by the Roman Empire?

MEDITERRANEAN (SEA)

B1: What body of water to the northeast of the Mediterranean was called the "Euxine Sea" by the Romans?

BLACK SEA

B2: What body of water was called the "Propontis," connecting the modern Bosphorus and Dardanelles?

(SEA OF) MARMARA

17. Say in Latin: "our camp," using the noun **castra**.

NOSTRA CASTRA

B1: Translate "our camp" in the following sentence into Latin: "The enemies finally found our camp."

NOSTRA CASTRA

B2: Translate "our camp" in the following sentence into Latin: "We built the walls of our camp yesterday."

NOSTRŌRUM CASTRŌRUM

18. When Jupiter and Mercury came to Phrygia in disguise, they were denied hospitality by all except what couple, whose piety was rewarded by transformation into an oak and linden tree?

BAUCIS and PHILEMON

B1: Name one of the rewards that Baucis and Philemon asked for from Jupiter and Mercury.

TO BE THEIR PRIESTS // LIVE IN THEIR TEMPLE or
TO NOT OUTLIVE EACH OTHER // DIE TOGETHER [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

B2: In an attempt to best serve their guests, Baucis and Philemon tried to cook what animal, though it was fortunately spared?

GOOSE

19. The verbs **persuādeō** and **crēdō** take what case, which would also translate “boy” in sentences like “I showed the boy a dog” and “I gave the boy a gift”?

DATIVE

B1: Say in Latin using **crēdō**: “Do you believe the messenger?”

CRĒDISNE NŪNTIŌ?

B2: What use of the dative appears in the sentence “**Militibus nūlla spēs erat**”?

(DATIVE OF) POSSESSION

****SCORE CHECK****

20. What group took a stand on the Mons Sacer in 494 B.C. to demand the creation of the tribunes, an office that would advocate for their interests and take a stand against senators and other patricians?

PLEBS // PLEBEIANS

B1: What term is generally used to refer to the plebs’ act of leaving the city *en masse*, which they performed several more times?

SECESSION (OF THE PLEBS) // **SĒCESSIŌ (PLĒBIS)**

B2: What staunch optimiate restricted the power of the plebeian tribunes during a series of reforms passed after a civil war which saw him forcibly take the city of Rome in 82 B.C.?

(LUCIUS CORNELIUS) SULLA (FELIX)

Novice — Preliminary Round Two

1. What kind of structure, one of which was first built in Rome by Servius Tullius, included ones named after Antoninus Pius and Hadrian in Britain to mark off Roman territory and defend the frontiers?
(DEFENSIVE) WALL(S)
B1: Which Roman emperor, who took the throne at the advanced age of 50, was the first to make permanent conquests in Britain starting in 43 A.D.?
CLAUDIUS
B2: Hadrian's Wall symbolizes the difference in philosophy between Hadrian and what predecessor of his, whose unquenchable drive to expand the empire brought Rome to its greatest extent?
TRAJAN
2. Mount Parnassus and Mount Helicon were sacred to what mythological group, nine daughters of Mnemosyne and Zeus who personified arts such as astronomy and epic poetry?
THE MUSES
B1: Name either the Muse of epic poetry or the Muse of history, and identify which one you are naming.
EITHER: EPIC POETRY – CALLIOPE or HISTORY – CLIO
B2: Name any two additional Muses besides Calliope and Clio.
ANY TWO OF: URANIA, MELPOMENE, THALIA, TERPSICHORE, ERATO, POLYHYMNIA, EUTERPE
3. Of the verbs **pugnō**, **necō**, **scribō**, and **vincō**, which action is least associated with a **proelium** or **bellum**, since it means “to write”?
SCRIBŌ
B1: What Latin verb means “to flee”?
FUGIŌ / FUGERE
B2: What Latin noun means “sword”?
GLADIUS
4. What object, hung on a tree in Colchis and guarded by a dragon, was brought back to Greece after a long quest with the help of the witch Medea and a band of heroes led by Jason?
THE GOLDEN FLEECE
B1: Who was Medea's father, the king of Colchis who guarded the fleece?
AEETES
B2: What mythological woman was in some sources the only female member of the Argonauts, though she is more known for being distracted by a set of golden apples?
ATALANTA
5. Say in Latin: “Claudius's book is beautiful.”
LIBER CLAUDIŪ EST PULCHER
B1: Now say in Latin: “Claudius's children were always beautiful.”
CLAUDIŪ {LĪBERĪ / FĪLIŪ / PUERĪ} SEMPER ERANT PULCHRI
B2: Now say in Latin, using the preposition **ab**: “Claudius will finally be free from danger.”
CLAUDIUS {TANDEM // DĒNIQUE} LĪBER ERIT {Ā / AB} PERĪCULŌ

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What meaning is shared between a word that appears twice in the motto of Columbia University and a word paired with **vērītās** in the motto of Yale University — **lūmen** and **lūx**?
LIGHT
B1: Name two other American universities besides Yale that have **vērītās** in their mottoes.
ANY TWO OF: UMICH, HARVARD, JOHNS HOPKINS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
B2: We are currently in the state of Connecticut. Translate the motto of Connecticut, “**Quī trānstulit sustinet.**”
HE WHO {TRANSPLANTED (US) // CARRIED (US) ACROSS} (STILL) SUSTAINS (US)
7. What sort of person, after learning from a **lanista**, could face off against a **rētiārius** in front of a huge crowd of blood-hungry spectators at the Colosseum or other venues?
GLADIATOR [PROMPT FOR LESS SPECIFICITY IF A SPECIFIC TYPE IS NAMED]
B1: The **rētiārius** was known for fighting with a trident and what other sort of tool?
NET
B2: What type of gladiator basically fought blind, because he wore a helmet without eye-openings?
ANDĀBATA
8. What man, whose son Neoptolemus carried on his legacy, was so angry at Briseis being taken from him that he refused to fight at Troy until the death of Patroclus?
ACHILLES
B1: Who were the two sons of Atreus who led the Greek army at Troy?
AGAMEMNON and MENELAUS
B2: What infant son of Hector was killed by Neoptolemus in some versions?
ASTYANAX / SCAMANDRIUS
9. Before Hannibal, who was Rome’s first enemy to use elephants, though his victory at Asculum caused him to remark that if he should win another battle, he would be “cooked,” as the kids say these days?
PYRRHUS
B1: What city in southern Italy invited Pyrrhus to wage war against Rome?
TARENTUM
B2: Where did the Romans, under the command of Curius Dentatus, defeat Pyrrhus in 275 B.C.?
BENEVENTUM / MALEVENTUM
10. Give the dative singular of the phrase that means “great glory” — **glōria magna**.
GLŌRIAE MAGNAE
B1: Change “**glōriae magnae**” to the accusative case.
GLŌRIAM MAGNAM
B2: Now change “**glōriam magnam**” to the plural.
GLŌRIĀS MAGNĀS

****SCORE CHECK****

11. The tortoise-shell lyre was an invention of what god, who stole the cattle of Apollo, held the caduceus, and traveled with winged sandals?
HERMES
B1: Ovid claims that Mercury also helped create a distraction as Jupiter turned into a bull to kidnap what woman and carry her to Crete?
EUROPA
B2: Hermes was born in Arcadia, a notoriously wild and untamed region of Greece. According to Ovid, what Arcadian king attempted to fool Zeus by feeding him human flesh?
LYCAON
12. What English noun, derived from a Latin first-declension noun meaning “moon,” means “a foolish or crazy person”?
LUNATIC [DO NOT ACCEPT “LOON”]
B1: Give the Latin noun and its meaning at the root of the English word “celestial.”
CAELUM – SKY
B2: Give the Latin word and its meaning at the root of the adjective “penal” as in “penal colony.”
POENA – PUNISHMENT // PENALTY
13. Give the form of **teneō** with the same person, number, and tense as **erāmus** — that is, the first person plural, imperfect active indicative form.
TENEBĀMUS
B1: Keeping all else the same, make **tenēbāmus** future and second person.
TENEBITIS
B2: Now give the form of **sum** that corresponds to **tenēbitis**.
ERITIS
14. What man became — alongside Collatinus — consul of 509 B.C. after being inspired by Lucretia’s suicide to drive Tarquinius Superbus out of Rome and start the Republic?
(LUCIUS JUNIUS) BRUTUS
B1: What man single-handedly defended the **Pōns Sublicius** from forces trying to restore Tarquinius Superbus to the kingship?
HORATIUS COCLES
B2: What king of Clusium was trying to help Tarquinius regain the throne?
LARS PORSENNA
15. What Latin preposition is involved with both the “Manner” and “Accompaniment” uses of the ablative, since it means “with”?
CUM
B1: What use of the ablative is translated as “with” but does not use a preposition?
(ABLATIVE OF) MEANS
B2: Besides **in**, give another Latin preposition that can take either accusative or ablative.
SUB / SUPER

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Who effectively delegated power to Sejanus starting in 26 A.D. while enjoying his retreat at Capri, since he had never really wanted to succeed Augustus and become Rome's second emperor?
TIBERIUS
B1: What man's execution at the hands of Pontius Pilate in Judea was arguably the most consequential event to take place during Tiberius's reign, though no Roman would have foreseen that at the time?
JESUS (CHRIST // OF NAZARETH)
B2: What adopted son of Tiberius earned the emperor's jealousy through his successful campaigns in Germany, and may have been poisoned by a governor of Syria?
GERMANICUS (JULIUS CAESAR)
17. Differentiate in meaning between the Latin nouns **nox** and **vōx**.
NOX – NIGHT and VŌX – VOICE / SOUND / CRY
B1: Differentiate in meaning between the Latin nouns **lēx** and **rēx**.
LĒX – LAW and RĒX – KING
B2: Differentiate in meaning between the adverb **vix** and the noun **vīs**.
{SCARCELY / HARDLY} and {VIOLENCE / FORCE / STRENGTH}
18. Traveling from Corinth to Thebes, who killed Laius, answered the riddle of the Sphinx, and became king, fulfilling the prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother?
OEDIPUS
B1: Who was Oedipus's mother and wife?
JOCASTA
B2: When Oedipus was at Corinth, he was raised by two foster-parents. Name one.
POLYBUS or MEROPE
19. What modern-day country saw a war ending with the defeat of Vercingetorix by Caesar, contained ancient cities such as Lutetia, and was known in antiquity as Gallia?
FRANCE
B1: Who won a victory in France at Aquae Sextiae against the Cimbri and Teutones during one of his seven consulships?
(GAIUS) MARIUS
B2: What third-century emperor, besides defeating Zenobia, also reconquered a breakaway Gallic Empire, mitigating the Crisis of the Third Century?
AURELIAN
- **SCORE CHECK****
20. *Note to players: there will be an extra clue if needed.* When recognized by the spotter, perform the following command: "**Mihi appropinquā.**" In other words, "**Ambulā ad mē.**"
PLAYER SHOULD WALK TOWARDS THE MODERATOR
[JUST DON'T LET THEM SEE THE QUESTIONS!]
B1: Now all of you perform the following command: "**Surgite et dīcite Anglicē 'Certāmen amāmus!'**"
PLAYERS SHOULD STAND AND SAY "WE LOVE CERTAMEN!"
B2: Now one of you perform the following command, taking **socius** as "teammate" and **bombinātor** as "buzzer": "**Sūme sociōrum tuōrum bombinātōrēs et dīc Anglicē 'Egō potestātem habeo!'**"

PLAYER SHOULD PICK UP THEIR TEAMMATES' BUZZERS AND SAY "I HAVE (THE) POWER!"

Novice — Preliminary Round Three

1. Of the cities “Aquae Sulis,” “Eboracum,” “Londinium,” and “Neapolis,” which was not found in Britain, since it was actually an Italian city that became “Naples”?
NEAPOLIS
B1: The city of “Mediolanum” became what modern-day Italian city?
MILAN
B2: The city of “Patavium” became what modern-day Italian city?
PADUA
2. The **ancilia** were established by what king, who also created the Pontifex Maximus and the Vestal Virgins, dedicating himself to peace and religion in contrast to his predecessor Romulus?
NUMA POMPILIUS
B1: Numa was said to have been the lover of what nymph?
EGERIA
B2: What temple did Numa found at the bottom of the Argiletum, whose doors were open in wartime and closed in peace?
TEMPLE OF JANUS
3. Of the Latin nouns **equus**, **lupus**, **leō**, and **canis**, which does not describe a type of predator but instead means “horse”?
EQUUS
B1: Of the Latin nouns **imperātor**, **hostis**, **dux**, and **mercātor**, which, if any, would not be found in the middle of a battle?
MERCĀTOR
B2: Of the Latin nouns **uxor**, **mulier**, **fēmina**, and **filia**, which, if any, does not refer to a woman or girl of some sort?
NONE // ALL DO
4. In what case are the words for “man” in the sentences “**Hominum magnam partem dūcit**,” “**Amō virī filiōs**,” and “**Virōrum hic optimus est**”?
GENITIVE
B1: What use of the genitive is exemplified by **hominum** in the sentence “**Hominum magnam partem dūcit**”?
PARTITIVE // OF THE WHOLE
B2: What word meaning “nothing” is often followed by a partitive genitive?
NIHIL
5. What god had epithets meaning “earth-shaker” and “of horses,” referring to his minor roles in addition to controlling storms with his trident and being god of the sea?
POSEIDON / NEPTUNE
B1: What son of Poseidon was a monster that Odysseus faced and blinded, earning him the god’s anger?
POLYPHEMUS

B2: It wasn't just Poseidon's anger that delayed Odysseus's return home, though. What deity gave Odysseus's crewmates a bag, which would have helped them get home had they not opened it?

AEOLUS

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What battle, coming two years after Trebia and Ticinus River, took place in 216 B.C. and saw the Romans receive their greatest ever defeat at the hands of Hannibal?

(BATTLE OF) CANNAE

B1: The Battle of Cannae saw Roman forces commanded by two consuls, one of whom died in the battle and one of whom survived. Name either, and indicate which one you are naming

ONE OF: SURVIVED – (C. TERENTIUS) VARRO; DIED – (L. AEMILIUS) PAULLUS

B2: Whose election as dictator prior to Cannae provided a period of military success against Hannibal?

(Q.) FABIVS MAXIMVS (CUNCTATOR)

[Note to mods: make sure to pronounce the **-us** carefully in **oculus**; pronounce the spell as Latin]

7. When Harry Potter and Hermione first meet, she performs the spell *Oculus Reparo* to fix his glasses. If Hermione knew her Latin, how would she have said "I repair the eyes" with the correct case ending?

OCULŌS REPARŌ

B1: In the seventh book, Hermione uses better Latin when she applies the *Cave Inimicum* spell to keep herself and her friends hidden. Given that **cavē** is imperative, what does this spell mean?

BEWARE THE ENEMY

B2: Another spell seen in Harry Potter is *Brackium Emendo*, which is meant to fix broken bones.

According to its Latin etymology, it fixes what specific body part?

ARM

8. What man's reward for kindness to Silenus turned out to be a curse that forced him to wash his hands in a river to get rid of his ability to turn anything he touched into gold?

MIDAS

B1: Midas later found himself cursed yet again when he judged Apollo's music inferior to that of what god, who was part goat?

PAN

B2: Pan was the son of what other god?

HERMES

9. What woman, raised alongside her sister Clytemnestra by Leda, was offered by Aphrodite as a prize greater than what Hera or Athena could offer to Paris, leading him to kidnap her from Sparta?

HELEN

B1: Helen and Clytemnestra also had two brothers, one a boxer and the other a tamer of horses. Name these brothers, who chose to share immortality between themselves.

CASTOR and POLLUX / POLYDEUCES

B2: Who was Leda's husband who raised all her children, even though Helen and Pollux were children of Zeus?

TYNDAREUS

10. Complete the following grammatical analogy: **valeō** is to **valent** as **faciō** is to [blank].
FACIUNT
 B1: Complete this analogy: **faciunt** is to **facient** as **dant** is to [blank].
DABUNT
 B2: Complete this analogy: **valeō** is to **valē** as **dūcō** is to [blank]. Keep in mind that **dūcō** forms this form irregularly.
DŪC
- **SCORE CHECK****
11. Translate into English: “**Nēmō potest Rōmam liberāre.**” Keep in mind that **nēmō** means “no one.”
 NO ONE CAN FREE ROME
 B1: Now translate: “**Nunc, ō milītēs, liberāte nōs.**”
 NOW FREE US, O SOLDIERS
 B2: Now translate: “**Nōnne Rōmānī possunt sē liberāre?**”
 CAN’T ROMANS FREE THEMSELVES // ROMANS CAN FREE THEMSELVES, CAN THEY NOT?
 [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS THAT MAKE THE FORCE OF **NŌNNE** CLEAR]
12. Which century A.D. saw Alaric’s attack on Rome, a second sack of Rome by another Germanic tribe, and the reign of Romulus Augustulus, during which the Western Empire fell?
 FIFTH CENTURY (A.D.) // 400s (A.D.)
 B1: Name either of the Germanic tribes that sacked Rome in 410 and 455 A.D., respectively; one of them was split into “Ostro-” and “Visi-” branches.
 (VISI)GOTHS // VANDALS
 B2: The Eastern Roman, or Byzantine, Empire survived until what century A.D.?
 FIFTEENTH CENTURY (A.D.) // 1400s (A.D.)
13. Linus’s music teaching did not pacify what hero, whose marriage to Megara ended with him murdering his children and being forced to serve Eurystheus in tasks such as killing the Nemean Lion?
 HERACLES
 B1: Name Heracles’s mother.
 ALCMENE / ALCMENA
 B2: Name Heracles’s mortal brother, a son of Amphytrion and Alcmene.
 IPHICLES
14. What is the meaning of the conjunction **nec** or **neque**, which is used by the Romans instead of **et nōn**?
 AND NOT // NOR // NEITHER // NOT EVEN
 B1: What is the meaning of the pair **aut ... aut ...**?
 EITHER ... OR ...
 B2: It is sometimes said that Latin has no rules for word order, but this is an oversimplification. What Latin word for “therefore,” unlike its synonym **ergō**, almost always appears as the second word of a clause?
IGITUR

15. Whose short reign saw a plague in Campania, a fire in Rome, and the destruction of both Herculaneum and Pompeii by Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D., the year of his father Vespasian's death?
TITUS
B1: Titus was succeeded by what brother of his, who was murdered in 96 and had a **damnātiō memoriae** issued against him?
DOMITIAN
B2: Titus and Domitian were part of what imperial dynasty?
FLAVIAN (DYNASTY)
- **SCORE CHECK****
16. Of the English words “admonish,” “monument,” “momentum,” and “summon,” which derives not from **moneō** but from **moveō**, as its meaning would suggest?
MOMENTUM
B1: What third-declension Latin noun is at the root of “amount” and “dismount”?
MŌNS
B2: What Latin verb meaning “to show” is actually a derivative within Latin of **moneō**?
(DĒ)MŌNSTRŌ
17. Translate into Latin: “Gaius gives Lucius wine.”
GĀIUS DAT LŪCIŌ VĪNUM
B1: Now translate: “I will give Aemilia wine.”
DABŌ AEMILIAE VĪNUM
B2: Now translate: “You were giving me a toga.”
DABĀS MIHI TOGAM
18. Who was living on his four-acre farm in 458 B.C. when he was called to free trapped legions on Mount Algidus as dictator, famously giving up his position after only sixteen days?
(LUCIUS QUINCTIUS) CINCINNATUS
B1: What tribe had trapped Roman legions on Mount Algidus?
AEQUI
B2: Another tribe, the Volsci, led an attack against Rome with the help of what Roman traitor, who had been exiled for his unfair conduct toward the plebs?
(CN. MARCIUS) CORIOLANUS
19. When should you take a medicine labeled **h.s.**, which stands for “**hōrā somnī**”?
BEFORE BED // AT THE HOUR OF SLEEP
B1: When should you take a medicine labeled **a.c.**, where **a.** stands for **ante**?
BEFORE MEALS
B2: When should you take a medicine labeled **p.r.n.**?
AS NEEDED // AS THE SITUATION ARISES
- **SCORE CHECK****
20. What city, which rejected a salt-water well in favor of an olive tree to determine its patron, had a king named Aegeus, who jumped off the Acropolis when he thought his son Theseus was dead?

ATHENS

B1: What goddess once kidnapped an Athenian named Cephalus, though she is more known for kidnapping Tithonus and turning him into a grasshopper?

EOS / AURORA [PROMPT ON “DAWN”]

B2: What half-snake, half-man was the first king of Athens?

CECROPS

Novice — Semifinals

1. Odysseus consumed a white-flowered herb called moly to protect himself against what woman on Aeaëa, who had turned the rest of his men into pigs and other animals with her magic?
CIRCE
B1: While Odysseus parted from Circe on good terms, he did not succeed in placating what father of hers, whose cattle his men imprudently slaughtered?
HELIOS
B2: Circe helped explain to Odysseus how to reach the Underworld and consult what seer?
T(E)IRESIAS
2. *Description acceptable.* What event in Roman history involved rigged weights used to negotiate a payment, Juno's geese waking up a commander, and Camillus driving off Brennus and the Senones?
{GALLIC / SENONIAN} {SACK / SIEGE} OF ROME [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]
B1: Who was the man awakened by the cackling of geese, an act which allowed him to alert the Romans to a secret attack on the Capitoline?
(M.) MANLIUS (CAPITOLINUS)
B2: According to Livy, what phrase did Brennus exclaim when the Romans complained about the rigged weights he was using in negotiations? You can give either the English or the two-word Latin phrase.
“VAE VICTĪS” // “WOE TO THE CONQUERED”
3. Which of the following Latin verbs does not belong because of conjugation? **clāmō**, **cēnō**, **cadō**, **cēlō**.
CADŌ
B1: What is the meaning of **cēnō**?
TO {DINE / EAT}
B2: What compound of **cadō** means “to happen”?
ACCIDŌ
4. What Latin verb is at the root of words meaning “denoting an idea rather than a concrete object” and “a powerful motor vehicle used on farms” — “abstract” and “tractor” — and means “to drag”?
TRAHŌ
B1: What Latin verb is at the ultimate root of “contagious,” “contact,” and “contiguous”?
TANGŌ
B2: What Latin verb is at the ultimate root of “reticent”?
TACEŌ
5. A life-threatening illness in the first year of his reign may have led what emperor to commit incest with his sister, order soldiers to pick up seashells on the French coast, and make his horse a senator?
CALIGULA
B1: What tribune of the Praetorian Guard ultimately killed Caligula?
CASSIUS CHAEREA
B2: What Praetorian Prefect allegedly killed Tiberius on Capri and elevated Caligula to the Principate?
(QUINTUS NAEVIUS SUTORIUS) MACRO

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Translate this sentence from Latin to English: “**Veniēsne mēcum crās?**” Keep in mind that **mēcum** is equivalent to **cum mē**.

WILL YOU COME WITH ME TOMORROW?

B1: Now translate this sentence: “**Hōdiē uxor mea pānem amīcīs vendere cupit.**”

TODAY MY WIFE WANTS TO SELL BREAD TO (MY / OUR / HER) FRIENDS

B2: Now translate this sentence: “**Vēnit herī nūntius ab imperātōre et nihil bonum dīxit.**”

A {MESSENGER / MESSAGE} CAME FROM THE {GENERAL /
EMPEROR} YESTERDAY AND SAID NOTHING GOOD

7. What Roman god presided over their Golden Age alongside his wife Ops, who was eventually deemed equivalent to Rhea while he became identified with Cronus?

SATURN

B1: What Roman god represented both beginnings and endings?

JANUS

B2: Name either the grandson of Saturn who was identified with Pan, or the native Italian equivalent of satyrs who derived their name from him.

FAUNUS or FAUNS / FAUNI

8. What two-word Latin oxymoron, a proverb frequently used by Augustus, literally means “make haste slowly”?

FESTĪNĀ LENTĒ

B1: What is the meaning of Augustus’s phrase “**ācta est fābula**”?

THE {STORY / PLAY} IS FINISHED

B2: What is the metaphorical meaning of Augustus’s phrase “**ad Kalendās Graecās,**” which literally means “at the Greek calends”?

NEVER // WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER

9. What man, the beneficiary of a 67 B.C. law called the **lēx Gabīnia**, lost the battle of Pharsalus shortly after the final dissolution of the First Triumvirate and the start of his civil war with Caesar?

POMPEY (THE GREAT) // (GNAEUS) POMPEIUS (MAGNUS)

B1: What man was Pompey’s co-consul in both 70 and 55 B.C. but died two years later at the Battle of Carrhae?

(MARCUS LICINIUS) CRASSUS

B2: The **lēx Gabīnia** gave Pompey command against pirates. Similarly, the **lēx Mānīlia** gave Pompey command against what enemy of Rome, who was now fighting his third war with the city?

MITHRIDATES (VI / THE GREAT / EUPATOR [DIONYSIUS])

10. For the phrase **hic agricola**, give the dative plural, which uses the standard first and second declension ending in both words.

HĪS AGRICOLĪS

B1: Make **hīs agricolīs** nominative plural.

HĪ AGRICOLAE

B2: Change **hī agricolae** to the accusative singular.

Novice — Semis

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Who proposed a colony called Junonia on Carthage's ruins before Lucius Opimius received a **Senātūs Cōnsultum Ūltimum** to kill him in 121 B.C., mirroring the death of his brother Tiberius?
 GAIUS (SEMPRONIUS) GRACCHUS
 B1: Who had led the mob that murdered Tiberius Gracchus?
 (P. CORNELIUS) SCIPIO NASICA (SERAPIO)
 B2: One of Gaius's policies that turned the Senate against him was his push to increase access to which essential foodstuff, called **annōna** in Latin?
 GRAIN / CORN
12. What deity created the anemone flower to honor her lover — whom she had to share with Persephone — after he foolishly hunted a boar and died, depriving her of her beloved Adonis?
 APHRODITE [ACCEPT "VENUS" BEFORE "PERSEPHONE"]
 B1: In the *Iliad*, Aphrodite is wounded by what son of Tydeus, who also wounds Ares?
 DIOMEDES
 B2: Adonis was the son of what man, who unknowingly had incestuous relations with his own daughter Myrrha?
 CINYRAS
13. What modern-day country, where queen Camilla joined an attempt to win Lavinia's hand for Turnus, was the target of a journey from the ruins of Troy as Aeneas sought to found a new great city?
 ITALY
 B1: What father of Aeneas died in Sicily during this journey?
 ANCHISES
 B2: Who was Lavinia's father, a king who was caught in the middle of the conflict between Aeneas and Turnus?
 LATINUS
14. Which of the following mountain ranges was found farthest south: Atlas, Caucasus, Pyrenees, Alps?
 ATLAS (MOUNTAINS)
 B1: Which of the following rivers was found farthest east: Rhenu, Danuvius, Nilus, Tigris?
 TIGRIS (RIVER)
 B2: Which of the following islands was found farthest north: Lemnos, Salamis, Cyprus, Crete?
 LEMNOS
15. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I will read twice, and answer in **English** the questions that follow:
Magna pompa in forō fuit quod Rōmānī proeliō vicērunt. Ducēs per viam ambulāvērunt et laetae familiae plausērunt. In mediō forō puer saluit et clāmāvit, "Ego quoque fortis dux esse cupiō!"
 The question: Why was there a parade in the forum?
 BECAUSE THE ROMANS {CONQUERED / WON} IN BATTLE
 B1: Name two large-scale things that happened at the parade.

GENERALS WALKED THROUGH THE STREET // (HAPPY) FAMILIES CLAPPED

B2: What did the little boy shout in the middle of the forum?

“I WANT TO BE A BRAVE LEADER TOO!”

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Say in Latin: “I ought to praise the happy gods.” To do this, you can use the verb **dēbeō**.

DĒBEŌ LAETŌS DEŌS LAUDĀRE

[ACCEPT OTHER GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT CONSTRUCTIONS]

B1: Now say in Latin: “We ought to give gifts to the goddesses.” Keep in mind that **dea** declines oddly!

DĒBĒMUS DŌNA DEĀBUS DARE

B2: Now say in Latin to a single person: “Do not flee the angry goddesses!”

NŌLĪ DEĀS ĪRĀTĀS FUGERE!

17. Like Trajan, what emperor established a commemorative column after wars against the Quadi and Marcomanni, despite his supposed Stoic lack of concern for fame expressed in the *Meditations*?

MARCUS AURELIUS

B1: What emperor preceded Marcus Aurelius and had an almost entirely peaceful reign?

ANTONINUS PIUS

B2: Marcus Aurelius’s column was located in what part of the city, which was used for elections and had the original purpose of being a space to assemble armies for war, as its name suggests?

CAMPUS MARTIUS // FIELD OF MARS

18. Keeping all else the same, change the verb form **stant** to the perfect tense, knowing that the 3rd principal part of **stō** is **stetī**.

STETĒRUNT

B1: Change the verb form **stetērunt** to the 2nd person, keeping all else the same.

STETISTIS

B2: The form **stetī** is an example of reduplication, where the perfect tense is formed by adding an extra syllable with a duplicated consonant. Which of the following verbs does not form its perfect tense using reduplication: **dō**, **currō**, **teneō**, **discō**?

TENEŌ

[THE OTHER PERFECT FORMS ARE **DEDĪ**, **CUCURRĪ**, AND **DIDICĪ**]

19. What sort of animal killed Androgeus after Minos refused to sacrifice it to Poseidon, though not before it impregnated Pasiphae, his wife, with a hybrid of itself and a human, the Minotaur?

(CRETAN / MARATHONIAN) BULL

B1: Whom did Pasiphae confide in when she was in love with the bull, asking him to help devise a mechanism for her to appear attractive to it?

DAEDALUS

B2: Daedalus eventually found his way — though sadly without Icarus — to what island, where Minos caught him when he passed a thread through an intricate shell?

SICILY

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Of **hortus**, **ātrium**, **cubiculum**, **tablinum**, and **trīclīnium**, which refers to a place you would go to in order to **herbam et flōrēs spectāre** or **sōlem et caelum vidēre**?

HORTUS

B1: What Latin verb refers to the action that you would spend the most time doing in the **cubiculum**?

DORMIŌ / DORMĪRE

B2: All of these rooms would be part of a building. What Latin word most generally means “building”?

AEDIFICIUM

Novice — Finals

2024 Yale Certamen Nov. Finals Visual

1. Numismatics, or the study of coins, is an important source of knowledge about Roman history. I will now pass out a visual of a coin. Your task will be to identify the event commemorated on this coin; you will have 15 seconds to look at the coin, followed by a hint. *[Wait 15 seconds]*
The hint: This coin, featuring a **pilleus** to symbolize freedom, two daggers used by the so-called “Liberators,” and text that abbreviates **Idūs Mārtiae**, depicts what event of 44 B.C.?
ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS CAESAR
B1: Now look at this second visual. Based on the text surrounding the crocodile, what Roman emperor minted this coin?
OCTAVIAN / AUGUSTUS
B2: Romans weren’t the only ones who made coins. This third visual shows a coin minted by what enemy of Rome, whose defeat was officially proclaimed at the Isthmian Games of 196 B.C.?
PHILIP V (OF MACEDON)
2. In the following sentence, how many grammatical cases are used? “**Discipulus trīstis tibi dīcit āthlētam ingentem magnā vōce prō magistrā clāmāre.**”
FOUR
B1: Identify the use of the accusative in that sentence: “**Discipulus trīstis tibi dīcit āthlētam ingentem magnā vōce prō magistrā clāmāre.**” Note that a description is acceptable.
SUBJECT // IN INDIRECT STATEMENT
B2: Translate the following sentence, which also contains an accusative subject, into English: “**Audiō vōs satis cibī nōn habēre.**”
I HEAR THAT YOU (ALL) DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD.
3. What man became the son-in-law of Ares even though he had murdered a serpent sacred to him and scattered its teeth to create the first inhabitants of Thebes, the city he founded?
CADMUS
B1: Cadmus became Ares’s son-in-law through his marriage to what woman?
HARMONIA
B2: When Ares was going out to war, he was accompanied by two sons of his, whose names are related to Greek words for “fear.” Name both.
PHOBOS and DEIMOS
4. At what sort of event would the intonation “**quandō tū Gāius, ego Gāia**” precede the sacrifice of a spelt cake in the presence of ten witnesses, who confirmed the new **marītus et uxor**’s union?
WEDDING / CŌNFARREĀTIŌ
B1: On the eve of her wedding, the bride dedicated what object, her childhood amulet, to household gods?
BULLA (AUREA)
B2: What Latin term refers to the taking of the new bride to the house of her husband?
DĒDUCTIŌ

5. Give all forms of the adjective **bonus** that agree with the noun form **sorōrēs**.

BONAE and **BONĀS**

B1: Give all forms of the adjective **bonus** that agree with the noun form **nāvis**.

BONA and **BONAE**

B2: Give both forms of the adjective **bonus** that agree with the noun form **flōs**. Yes, there's more than one!

BONUS and **BONE**

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Rejected by Marpessa, cheated on by Coronis, and responsible for the death of Hyacinthus and the transformation of Daphne, what god found no relief for unhappy love in his music and healing?

APOLLO

B1: What child did Apollo snatch from Coronis's womb after killing her in a jealous rage?

ASCLEPIUS // AESCULAPIUS

B2: Marpessa rejected Apollo in favor of what mortal?

IDAS

7. What battle, where Titus Herminius killed an enemy leader, saw the dictator Aulus Postumius Albus lead forces against Octavius Mamilius and the Latin League in 496 B.C.?

(BATTLE OF) LAKE REGILLUS

B1: Legend has it that what divine pair came to Rome's aid during the battle?

CASTOR and **POLLUX**

B2: The Latin League was not dissolved until over a century after this battle when the Romans won what war, which spanned from 340 to 338 B.C.?

GREAT LATIN WAR

8. Listen carefully to the following passage, in which **venter**, **ventris** means "stomach," and answer in **Latin** the questions that follow after two readings:

Ōlim in corpore pugna erat. Manus et dentēs ventrem nōn amābant. 'Ō dentēs,' inquit manus irāta, 'ego cibum ad vōs dūcō et vōs ad ventrem mittitis. Nōs labōrem habēmus, venter ōtium.'

The question: **Quid habet venter, dum manus et dentēs labōrem habent?**

ŌTIUM

B1: **Quālis manus erat cum haec verba dīxit?**

ĪRĀTA

B2: **Quō cibis venit postquam ā dentibus dēmīttitur?**

AD VENTREM

9. Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of derivation: "appetite," "compete," "petition," "repeat"?

NONE // THEY ALL BELONG

B1: Which of these words is also derived from **petō**: "carpet," "impetuous," "complete," "perpetrate"?

IMPETUOUS

B2: What derivative of **pellō**, via its fourth principal part, means "feeling intense distaste and aversion"?

REPULSED

10. Shortly after defeating a rival emperor named Licinius, who called the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. to resolve disputes about the ideology he had endorsed after Milvian Bridge — Christianity?
CONSTANTINE (I // THE GREAT)

B1: What rival did Constantine defeat at Milvian Bridge?

MAXENTIUS

B2: What emperor made Christianity the official state religion shortly before his death in 395 A.D.?

THEODOSIUS (I // THE GREAT)

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Translate the following sentence from Latin to English: “**Quid meus amīcus iūssit mē facere?**” The verb **iussit** is the perfect of **iubeō**, meaning “to order.”

WHAT DID MY FRIEND ORDER ME TO DO?

B1. Now translate this sentence from Latin to English: “**Volō pugnāre, sed nōn licet mihi amīcōs relinquere.**”

I WANT TO FIGHT, BUT {IT IS NOT ALLOWED FOR ME // I AM NOT ALLOWED}
TO ABANDON MY FRIENDS

B2: Now translate this sentence from Latin to English: “**Nec deī nec hominēs bellum laudant, sed tamen glōriam in bellō accipimus.**”

NEITHER GODS NOR MEN PRAISE WAR, BUT NEVERTHELESS WE RECEIVE GLORY IN WAR

12. Known in the *Iliad* for his long reminiscences and wise advice, what man, who was visited by Telemachus at Pylos, was the oldest of the warriors at Troy?

NESTOR

B1: Nestor was the only survivor among the twelve sons of what previous king of Pylos?

NELEUS

B2: Nestor’s son Antilochus was killed by what Ethiopian warrior, the son of Eos and Tithonus?

MEMNON

13. What three-word Latin phrase refers to the legal responsibility of a person or organizational entity entrusted with caring for a child, and literally means “in the place of a parent”?

IN LOCŌ PARENTIS

B1: What two-word Latin phrase details a citizen’s right to obtain a writ of protection from illegal imprisonment?

HABEĀS CORPUS

B2: What two-word Latin phrase is a legal principle requiring the presence of sufficient evidence to determine whether or not a crime has occurred, and literally means “body of the crime”?

CORPUS DELICTI

14. What Roman’s victory at Campi Magni was helped by his alliance with Massinissa, which he forged after invading Africa in 204 B.C. and engaging in battle at Zama to end the Second Punic War?

(P. CORNELIUS) SCIPIO AFRICANUS

B1: Massinissa was a king of what region, which also produced Rome’s enemy Jugurtha?

NUMIDIA

B2: During the Second Punic War, what other king of Numidia allied with the Carthaginians despite Scipio's attempt to bring him over to the Roman side?

SYPHAX

15. By using white fat to wrap up an ox's bones, who deceived Zeus about the ideal sacrifice — showing the “forethought” that gave him his name — then stole fire from the gods, earning eternal punishment?

PROMETHEUS

B1: Zeus used deception in response by presenting Epimetheus with what woman as a wife?

PANDORA

B2: Prometheus and Epimetheus both had children, who then married. Name this couple.

DEUCALION and PYRRHA

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Differentiate in meaning between the two verbs that are joined by **dum** in the three-word Latin motto of the state of South Carolina, **spīrō** and **spērō**.

(TO / I) BREATHE and (TO / I) HOPE (RESPECTIVELY)

B1: A similar three-word Latin phrase with **dum** is Seneca's claim that humans “learn while they teach.” Give the Latin words for “learn” and “teach.”

DISCŌ and **DOCEŌ** (RESPECTIVELY)

B2: Now differentiate in meaning between **cōgō** and **colō**.

(TO / I) FORCE / GATHER / COLLECT and (TO / I) CULTIVATE / WORSHIP (RESPECTIVELY)

17. What two consecutive emperors both lost battles at Bedriacum or Cremona against their successors — all in one year — as they came after Galba and before Vespasian in 69 A.D.?

OTHO and VITELLIUS

B1: Name one of Vitellius's generals who won the first battle of Bedriacum against Otho.

(FABIUS) VALENS or (AULUS) CAECINA

B2: Otho had been married to what woman, who was taken from him by Nero, but killed by the angry emperor while she was pregnant?

POPPAEA SABINA

18. *Note to players: there will be an extra clue.* Say in Latin: “Five brothers see eight horses in one forum.” Keep in mind that the words for “five” and “eight” do not decline, but the word for “one” does.

QUINQUE FRĀTRĒS IN ŪNŌ FORŌ OCTO EQUŌS {VIDENT / SPECTANT}

B1: Now say in Latin: “The third soldier gave bread to two friends.”

TERTIUS MĪLES PĀNEM DUŌBUS AMĪCĪS {DEDIT / DABAT}

B2: Now say in Latin: “Sixteen bridges lie above four rivers.”

SĒDECIM PONTĒS {SUPRĀ QUATTUOR FLŪMINA // SUPER QUATTUOR FLŪMINA / FLŪMINIBUS} IACENT

19. Either thanks to Poseidon's horses or Myrtilus's intervention, who defeated Oenomaus in a chariot race to win his wife's hand, though he is more known for being served to the gods by his father Tantalus?

PELOPS

B1: Who was his wife, the daughter of Oenomaus?

B2: One of Pelops's sons was Atreus; another was what man, who feuded with Atreus and was eventually tricked into eating his own children?

THYESTES

****SCORE CHECK****

20. When recognized, please perform the following commands: **Stā et tange mēnsam manibus duābus.**
PLAYER SHOULD STAND AND TOUCH THE TABLE WITH BOTH HANDS.
B1: Now, perform this command: **Omnēs surgite et iungite manūs cum amīcīs et clāmāte Anglicē**
“Vincēmus!”
ALL TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD STAND, HOLD HANDS AND SAY “WE WILL WIN!”
B2: Finally, perform this command: **Stā in sellā, tolle manūs, et magnā vōce clāmā “timēte mē!”**
ONE PLAYER SHOULD STAND ON A CHAIR, RAISE THEIR HANDS, AND SAY “FEAR ME!”