

Harvard Certamen 2025

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Intermediate — Preliminary Round One

1. What sort of event, which often saw the Janiculum or the **Mons Sacer** seized, led to the creation of the tribunes and occurred up to five times as a way for the plebeians to increase their rights?
SĒCESSIŌ PLĒBIS // SECESSION OF THE PLEBS
B1: How did Menenius Agrippa end the first secession of the plebs?
HE TOLD A STORY (OF THE BELLY AND LIMBS)
B2: What law was passed after the final secession of the plebs?
LĒX HORTĒNSIA
2. Distinguish in meaning between **cūrō** with one **r** and **currō** with two **rs**.
(TO / I) CARE and (TO / I) RUN (RESPECTIVELY)
B1: Now distinguish in meaning between **legō** and **regō**.
(TO / I) READ/COLLECT and (TO / I) RULE (RESPECTIVELY)
B2: Now distinguish in meaning between **appellō**, **-āre**, and **appellō**, **-ere**.
(TO / I) NAME and (TO / I) {DRIVE / PUSH} FORWARD (RESPECTIVELY)
3. Who killed Hephaestus' club-wielding son Periphetes, a pine-bending robber named Sinis, and a brigand who kicked people to a man-eating turtle, all while on his way to find his father Aegeus at Athens?
THESEUS
B1: What other brigand killed by Theseus was known for cutting people down to size to fit into a bed?
PROCRUSTES / DAMASTES / POLYPEMON
B2: At what city had Theseus been raised by his mother Aethra?
TROEZEN
4. What U.S. state, which has the motto "**Quī transtulit, sustinet,**" is also home to a university whose motto is, in Harvard-imitating fashion, "**Lūx et Vērītās**"?
CONNECTICUT
B1: Connecticut is one of only two U.S. states with a motto that contains two indicative verbs. What is the other one?
SOUTH CAROLINA
B2: They are not the only states to have mottos with multiple verbs, however. Give one of the other states, and its motto, that contains an indicative verb and another verb.
**ANY ONE OF: MICHIGAN – SĪ QUAERIS PĒNINSULAM AMOENAM, CIRCUMSPICE;
NORTH DAKOTA – SERIT UT ALTERĪ SAECLŌ PRŌSIT; ALABAMA – AUDĒMUS IŪRA
NOSTRA DĒFENDERE**
5. Which of the following was not a river in modern-day Italy: Tiber, Rubicon, Metaurus, Nilus?

NILUS

B1: Which of these was not a river in modern-day France: Rhenus, Rhodanus, Sequana, Hiberus?

HIBERUS

B2: What major ancient city developed along the Sequana river in France?

LUTETIA

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What constellation, which has the shape of a W, is thought to have been an upside down queen, whose rash boasts endangered her daughter by Cepheus, the Ethiopian princess Andromeda?

CASSIOPEIA

B1: What was Cassiopeia's rash boast?

ANDROMEDA WAS PRETTIER THAN THE NEREIDS

B2: Although Cepheus betrothed Andromeda to Perseus, what uncle of hers fought Perseus for her?

PHINEUS

7. What is the case and use of **rēx** in the following sentence: "**Rēge ā cīvibus interfectō, rēs pūblica condita est**"?

ABLATIVE ABSOLUTE

B1: Now give the case and use of **rēx** in this sentence: "**Urbs post mortem rēgis ab hostibus oppugnāta est.**"

SUBJECTIVE GENITIVE [PROMPT ON POSSESSIVE]

B2: Now give the case and use of **rēx** in this sentence: "**Rēge hōc nihil crūdelius invenīrī potest.**"

ABLATIVE OF COMPARISON

8. What emperor was betrayed by Arbogast and his puppet Eugenius, though he defeated both at Frigidus River, cementing his rule of both halves of the empire in 394 A.D., the last time an emperor did so?

THEODOSIUS {I // THE GREAT}

B1: Arbogast achieved distinction during the reign of Gratian, who had himself appointed Theodosius as co-emperor after Valens' death against the Goths at what disastrous battle?

ADRIANOPLE / HADRIANOPOLIS

B2: Theodosius had appointed Arbogast as the guardian of what youth, who succeeded his father in the West after the father suffered a stroke during negotiations with the Quadi in 375 A.D.?

VALENTINIAN II

9. Who, after being seemingly visited by her nursemaid Beroe, asked her lover to appear to her as he did to his wife, but was incinerated by Zeus' divine form before her son Dionysus was rescued from her ashes?

SEMELE

B1: Beroe was not Beroe at all, but in fact what goddess disguising herself as Beroe?

HERA

B2: Since Dionysus wasn't ready to be born, with what unusual method did Zeus incubate him?

SEWING HIM INTO HIS THIGH

10. Which of the following verbs does not belong based on meaning: **caedō, interficiō, necō, cēlō**?

CĒLŌ

B1: Which of the following verbs does not belong by meaning: **hortor, imperō, moneō, patior?**

PATIOR

B2: Which of the following verbs does not belong by grammatical usage: **soleō, audeō, temptō, lacrimō?**

LACRIMŌ [DOESN'T TAKE INFINITIVE]

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Identify and correct the mistake in the following Latin sentence: “**Rēx nūntiāvit exercitūs hostium veniunt.**”

VENIUNT SHOULD BE **VENĪRE**

B1: Identify and correct the mistake, if any, in the following Latin sentence: “**Caesar militibus imperāvit ut urbem oppugnāre.**”

OPPUGNĀRE SHOULD BE **OPPUGNĀRENT**

B2: Identify and correct the mistake, if any, in the following Latin sentence: “**Mārcus carmina pulchra scrīpsit, quae populō Rōmānō placēbat.**”

PLACĒBAT SHOULD BE **PLACĒBANT**

12. Who cut an oxhide into strips and formed a circle around a hill after fleeing from her wicked brother Pygmalion in Tyre to North Africa, where she ultimately founded the city of Carthage?

DIDO/ELISSA

B1: From what king of the Gaetulians had Dido purchased as much land as could fit in an oxhide?

IARBAS

B2: What name was given to Carthage's citadel due to Dido's trick?

BURSA

13. Using a passive periphrastic, say in Latin: “We must see the city!” Note that this can be rewritten as “The city must be seen by us.”

NŌBĪS URBS VIDENDA EST

B1: Now say in Latin using **tam**: “Where is that city, whose walls are so tall?”

UBI EST ILLA URBS CŪIUS MŪRĪ TAM ALTĪ SUNT?

B2: Now say in Latin, again using a passive periphrastic: “I believe that I must kill you.” Keep in mind which pronoun should be the agent when you rephrase it as passive.

CRĒDŌ TĒ MIHI INTERFICIENDUM/-AM ESSE

14. The temples of Apollo on the Palatine and of Mars Ultor were built by what emperor, who also entrusted several building projects to Agrippa after his victory at Actium gave him sole control of Rome?

AUGUSTUS

B1: Augustus first vowed to construct the temple of Mars Ultor in 42 B.C., before what major battle in which he and Marc Antony faced off against Brutus and Cassius?

(BATTLE OF) PHILIPPI

B2: What emperor built the temple of Venus and Rome, the largest temple in the city?

HADRIAN

15. Distinguish in ultimate derivation between “mansion” and “manage,” of which the first comes through a noun meaning “staying” and the second through a verb meaning “to handle.”

MANEŌ and MANUS (RESPECTIVELY)

B1: What English derivative of “**manus**” means “the process of making goods systematically or on a large scale”?

MANUFACTURE

B2: What English derivative of “**maneō**” means “a collection of live wild animals as an exhibition”?

MENAGERIE

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Quid Anglicē significat “supercilium,” quod suprā oculōs est?

EYEBROW

B1: Quid Anglicē significat “umerus”?

SHOULDER

B2: Quid Anglicē significat “genū”?

KNEE

17. When Lucius Opimius received the first **senātūs cōsultum ultimum** in 121 B.C., he led an armed force against what tribune, who had tried to continue his brother’s work in land reform?

GAIUS (SEMPRONIUS) GRACCHUS

B1: Gaius Gracchus’s program of reform was much more wide-ranging than just land reform. Among other proposals, he tried to found a colony called Junonia on the now-barren site of what city?

CARTHAGE

B2: Marius received a **senātūs cōsultum ultimum** in 100 B.C. for what three-time tribune’s mob violence, even though they had been allies for much of the year?

(LUCIUS APPULEIUS) SATURNINUS

18. Translate into English: “**Mārcus novem diēs per silvam celeriter currēbat.**”

MARCUS {WAS RUNNING // RAN} QUICKLY THROUGH THE FOREST FOR NINE DAYS

B1: Now translate: “**Hoc iter faciēbat quod frāter ā leōnibus captus erat.**”

HE WAS MAKING THIS JOURNEY BECAUSE (HIS) BROTHER HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY LIONS

B2: Now translate: “**Sī Mārcus frātre[m] inveniet, nēmō Mārcō laetior erit.**”

IF MARCUS {FINDS // WILL FIND} HIS BROTHER, NO ONE WILL BE HAPPIER THAN MARCUS

19. What specific kind of event saw a **cumera** carried by a **camillus** as a **farreum libum**, or spelt cake, helped celebrate a marriage in traditionally elaborate fashion?

CŌNFARREĀTIŌ [PROMPT ON “WEDDING”]

B1: What was the term for the sort of “common-law” marriage practiced among plebeians?

ŪSUS

B2: What was the name for the matron who brought the bride and groom together during a **cōnfarreātiō**?

PRŌNUBA

*****SCORE CHECK*****

20. What group of women, upon arriving to Argos, claimed descent from Io, although an Egyptian army ultimately sent by their uncle caused them to return, wed, and murder their fifty cousins?

THE DANAIDS // DAUGHTERS OF DANAUS

B1: To what punishment were they sentenced to after their death for this crime?

ENDLESSLY FILL A LEAKY TUB

B2: Who was the only Danaid to spare her husband, Lynceus?

HYPERMNESTRA

Intermediate — Preliminary Round Two

1. Distinguish in meaning between **hortus** and **portus**.
GARDEN and PORT (RESPECTIVELY)
B1: Distinguish in meaning between **molestus** and **scelestus**.
ANNOYING and CRIMINAL/WICKED (RESPECTIVELY)
B2: Distinguish in meaning between **pretium** and **praemium**.
PRICE and REWARD (RESPECTIVELY)
2. What city was struck by a plague and sea monster after refusing payment for walls built by Aeacus, Poseidon, and Apollo, walls that later served it well during a ten year siege by the Greeks?
TROY
B1: The walls of Troy were constructed by Apollo and Poseidon per the request of what king?
LAOMEDON
B2: Laomedon's refusal to pay led to what hero saving his daughter Hesione, and ultimately to Troy's first sacking when Laomedon also refused to pay this hero?
HERACLES
3. Proculus Julius claimed that what man had become a god after vanishing in a storm, convincing the senators to appoint an **interrex** and then replace him as king with the Sabine native Numa Pompilius?
ROMULUS
B1: Romulus was usually said to have been deified under what name?
QUIRINUS
B2: At what town in the Sabine country, perhaps related etymologically to the name "Quirinus," did Numa Pompilius reside before being chosen as king?
CURES
4. Translate into English: "**Caesar saepe decimae legiōnī crēdiderat.**"
CAESAR HAD OFTEN {BELIEVED / TRUSTED} THE TENTH LEGION
B1: Translate into Latin: "**Caesar septem annīs tōtam Galliam vicerit et domum redīverit.**"
(WITH)IN SEVEN YEARS CAESAR WILL HAVE CONQUERED ALL (OF) GAUL AND (WILL HAVE) RETURNED HOME
B2: Translate into Latin: "**Nēmō Caesarī persuādēbit ut pācem sine victōriā faciat.**"
NO ONE WILL PERSUADE CAESAR TO MAKE PEACE WITHOUT VICTORY
5. Who was killed by a spear tipped with a stingray's spine by his son Telegonus, fulfilling a prophecy given by the dead seer Tiresias shortly after he left Circe's island?
ODYSSEUS
B1: What son of Poseidon and Thoösa did Odysseus kill in the Odyssey, angering the god?
POLYPHEMUS
B2: What brother of Telegonus traveled to Italy and named a race Aeneas encountered there?
LATINUS

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Later recruited as an admiral for Antiochus III, what general swore eternal hatred for Rome, besieged Saguntum, and dealt Rome great defeats at Lake Trasimene and Cannae during the Second Punic War?
HANNIBAL
B1: After Cannae, Hannibal made an alliance with what king, who was defeated at Cynoscephalae in a later war?
PHILIP V
B2: At what event did Flamininus proclaim freedom and self-determination for all Greeks shortly after the battle of Cynoscephalae?
ISTHMIAN GAMES
7. What Latin noun is described here? “**Hoc est spatium temporis quō vigilant hominēs et sōl lūcet.**” It is also the root of “diurnal.”
DIĒS
B1: What is the meaning of **vēr**, which gives us the English adjective "vernal"?
SPRING
B2: What is the meaning of **merīdiēs**, which gives us the English adjective "meridional"?
MIDDAY / NOON
8. Whose shade begged Heracles to marry his sister, and died after he had killed his uncles in the aftermath of a boar hunt when his mother Althaea burned a log tied to his life?
MELEAGER
B1: Name this sister of Meleager, Heracles’ future wife whose fitting name means “husband destroyer.”
DEIANIRA
B2: Meleager killed his uncles Toxeus and Plexippus after they stole what from Atalanta?
(THE CALYDONIAN) BOAR’S HIDE
9. What emperor used interventionist economic methods to curb inflation with an Edict on Maximum Prices in 301 A.D. as he ended the third-century crisis and established the tetrarchy?
DIOCLETIAN
B1: Hyperinflation really started about a century earlier during the rule of what dynasty, when emperors debased the coinage to pay increasingly large sums to soldiers to fend off usurpers like Macrinus?
SEVERAN (DYNASTY)
B2: The inflation crisis peaked with a revolt by members of what profession in Aurelian’s reign?
MINT-WORKERS (OF FELICISSIMUS)
10. Give all four principal parts for the verb that means ‘is missing’ and is a compound of **esse**.
DĒSUM, DĒ(E)SSE, DĒFUĪ, DĒFUTŪRUS // ABSUM, ABESSE, ĀFUĪ, ĀFUTŪRUS
B1: Make the form **dēsum** imperfect, keeping all else the same.
DĒERAM
B2: Give the perfect indicative form of **dēsum** that would match the phrase **vōs Rōmanae fēminae**.
DĒFUISTIS

****SCORE CHECK****

11. After Antonius Primus helped him win a civil war, what aged emperor became known for his sarcastic humor, as when in 79 A.D. he remarked “I think I’m becoming a god” before passing power to Titus?
VESPASIAN
 B1: Our main source for the reign of Vespasian is what Latin author of “The Twelve Caesars” who wrote biographies of the Julio-Claudian and Flavian emperors?
(GAIUS) SUETONIUS (TRANQUILLUS)
 B2: Name either of Vitellius’s generals who had defeated Otho’s forces.
(AULUS) CAECINA or (FABIUS) VALENS
12. Which of the following Latin adjectives would be most likely to describe the noun **os**, **ossis**: **dis simile**, **aureum**, **facile**, **frāctum**, and **attonitum**? Keep in mind that **os** means “bone.”
FRĀCTUM
 B1: Which of the following Latin adjectives would be most likely to describe a **sella**: **vacua**, **aegra**, **tacita**, **scelesta**?
VACUA
 B2: Distinguish in meaning between **pretium** and **praemium**.
PRICE and REWARD
13. What objects, a gift from Gaia for Zeus and Hera’s wedding, were guarded by the hundred-headed dragon Ladon and sought by Heracles for his eleventh labor?
(GOLDEN) APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES [PROMPT ON “APPLES”]
 B1: What Titan, the father of the Hesperides, helped Heracles to complete his task?
ATLAS
 B2: What group did the Hesperides later direct to a spring as they wandered near Lake Triton?
THE ARGONAUTS
14. Translate into Latin, using a present participle: “Didn’t we see you running?”
NŌNNE {TĒ / VŌS} {CURRENTEM / CURRENTĒS} VĪDIMUS?
 B1: Translate into Latin, using a future participle: “He said that the man about to fight was my son.”
DĪXIT {VIRUM / HOMINEM} PUGNĀTŪRUM MEUM FILIUM ESSE
 B2: Translate into Latin using **apud**: “I didn’t know that you had seen him at my house.”
NESCĪVĪ TĒ {EUM / ILLUM} APUD MĒ VĪDISSE
15. What was the term for the power the **paterfamiliās** had over his descendants, literally meaning “fatherly power”?
PATRIA POTESTĀS
 B1: What was the term for the authority a **paterfamiliās** had over his wife?
MANUS
 B2: What was the term for the process by which a **paterfamiliās** was adopted by another **paterfamiliās**?
ADROGĀTIŌ
- **SCORE CHECK****
16. Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of derivation: chance, candid, cadence, occasion?

CANDID

B1: What is the literal meaning of the Latin adjective from which “candid” is derived?

WHITE / BRIGHT

B2: You may have realized that all of the other words derive from **cadō**. What other English derivative of **cadō** means “shedding leaves annually”?

DECIDUOUS

17. What war, during which Herennius failed to advise his son Gavius Pontius, saw Roman defeats at Lautulae in 315 B.C. and at Caudine Forks, where Roman soldiers were forced under the yoke?

{SECOND / GREAT} SAMNITE WAR

B1: In what year did the Battle of Caudine Forks take place?

321 B.C.

B2: What man’s campaigns against the Helvetii in 58 B.C. were partly framed as revenge for an incident in 107 B.C. where they forced a Roman army under the yoke?

(GAIUS) JULIUS CAESAR

18. For the phrase “**īnfēlix rēs pūblica**,” give the genitive singular.

ĪNFĒLĪCIS REĪ PŪBLICAE

B1: Now, for the phrase “**nūllus eques bonus**,” give the dative singular comparative.

NŪLLĪ EQUITĪ MELIŌRĪ

B2: Now, for the phrase “**utra nūbēs magna**,” give the genitive plural superlative.

UTRĀRUM NŪBIUM MAXIMĀRUM

19. What pair planned to rendezvous at Ninus’ tomb before a series of tragedies that stained the mulberry red, after one killed himself believing his lover to be dead and the other, finding his body, followed suit?

PYRAMUS AND THISBE

B1: What city had they lived in, which was once ruled by Semiramis who built its Hanging Gardens?

BABYLON

B2: How had Pyramus and Thisbe secretly communicated at night?

WHISPERING THROUGH A HOLE IN THE WALL

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Where might you most likely find the abbreviations S.T.T.L., H.J.S., and R.I.P.?

ON A HEADSTONE

B1: Give the Latin and English for any two of those abbreviations

SIT TIBI TERRA LEVIS, MAY THE EARTH BE LIGHT ON YOU; **HIC IACET SEPULTUS**,
HERE LIES BURIED; **REQUIĒSCA(N)T IN PĀCE**, MAY (T)HE(Y) REST IN PEACE

B2: While standing in front of a gravestone, someone might exhort you “**dē mortuīs nīl nisi bonum.**”
What would this idiomatically mean in English?

SPEAK ONLY WELL OF THE DEAD [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

Intermediate — Preliminary Round Three

1. What group camped on the Areopagus while attempting to rescue Antiope, who had been abducted by Theseus when he accompanied Heracles to retrieve the girdle of their queen Hippolyta?
THE AMAZONS
B1: What god was Hippolyta's father and a patron of the Amazons?
ARES
B2: What sister of Hippolyta fought for the Trojans and was killed by Achilles?
PENTHESILEA
2. Translate into English: "**Hic miles erat imperātōrī ūtilior quam ille.**"
THIS SOLDIER WAS MORE USEFUL TO THE GENERAL THAN THAT ONE
B1: Translate into English, keeping in mind that **quisque** means "everyone": "**Quisque crēdidit sē optimum militem esse, sed nescīvit quis vērē optimus esset.**"
EVERYONE BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE THE BEST SOLDIER, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHO
WAS TRULY THE BEST
B2: Translate into English: "**Imperātor militibus imperāvit ut inter sē pugnārent ad optimum virum inveniendum.**"
THE GENERAL ORDERED THE SOLDIERS TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES TO FIND THE
BEST MAN
3. Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of meaning: **nūbēs, sōl, iūs, stēlla**?
IŪS
B1: Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of meaning: **auris, lepus, pullus, ovis**?
AURIS
B2: Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of meaning: **māne, nunc, valdē, crās**?
VALDĒ
4. Who won battles against Licinius in 324 A.D. and at Milvian Bridge in 312, conquering "**in hōc signō**" after a vision of a cross supposedly prompted him to convert to Christianity?
CONSTANTINE {I/THE GREAT}
B1: Which imperial nepo-baby suffered a grave reverse at the Milvian Bridge?
MAXENTIUS
B2: Name one of the battles in 324 A.D. at which Constantine defeated Licinius.
(BATTLE OF) ADRIANOPE / CHRYSOPOLIS
5. For the verb **volō, velle**, give the second person plural perfect active indicative.
VOLUISTIS
B1: Now make **voluistis** future.
VOLĒTIS
B2: Now make **volētis** present and subjunctive.
VELĪTIS

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What province, where Septimius Severus died, saw Suetonius Paulinus put down the revolt of a queen named Boudicca only a few decades after Claudius first crossed from Gaul to conquer it?
BRITAIN / **BRITANNIA**
B1: Septimius Severus died in what city, now known as York?
EBORACUM / EBURACUM
B2: What governor of Britain defeated the Caledonian chieftain Calgacus at the Battle of Mons Graupius?
(GNAEUS JULIUS) AGRICOLA
7. What woman refused to throw the bones of her mother after being instructed by the oracle of Delphi to do so, but was convinced that the “bones” were in fact stones by her husband, Deucalion?
PYRRHA
B1: When Deucalion and Pyrrha threw stones behind their back, what did the stones morph into?
HUMANS
B2: What titaness was responsible for this advice, since she at that time controlled Delphi?
THEMIS
8. What fruit did the Romans refer to as a **mālum Pūnicum**?
POMEGRANATE
B1: What fruit did the Romans refer to as a **mālum Persicum**?
PEACH
B2: What fruit did the Romans refer to as a **mālum Armeniācum**?
APRICOT
9. Forms of what Latin word fill the blanks in the following phrases: “**inter arma silent** [blank],” “[blank] **talīōnis**,” and “[blank] **sine mōribus vānae**”?
LĒX
B1: What phrase including the word **lĕx** is the motto of Missouri?
SALŪS POPULĪ SUPRĒMA LĒX ESTŌ
B2: Translate the following Ciceronian quote that uses the word **lĕx**: “**Lēgum servī sumus ut liberī esse possīmus.**”
WE ARE SLAVES {OF / TO} THE LAWS SO THAT WE {CAN / MAY // MAY BE ABLE TO} BE FREE
10. Who, due to his grandfather Oeneus’ guest friendship, swapped armor with an opponent, Glaucus, before, with Athena’s aid, managing to wound both Aphrodite and Ares?
DIOMEDES
B1: Glaucis is the cousin of what son of Zeus, later to be killed by Patroclus?
SARPEDON
B2: What son of Aphrodite was she wounded trying to defend?
AENEAS

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I shall read twice, then answer in **English** the question that follows:
- Cum quīdam senex, nōmine Lūcius, in viā ambulābat, ā lātrōnibus in insidiīs captus est. Dux lātrōnum senem rogāvit, num aurum habēret. Senex perterritus erat, sed nōn dives. “Quid faciam?” reputāvit ille sēcum.**
- The question: What happened to Lucius on the road?
- HE WAS CAPTURED/AMBUSHED BY BANDITS
- B1: What did the leader of the bandits ask Lucius?
- IF/WHETHER HE HAD (ANY) GOLD
- B2: How did the old man feel?
- TERRIFIED
12. During the 300s and 200s B.C., what city controlled the colony of Gades, a port that was later renamed as its “new” version in Spain, and several cities on the island of Sicily that it later ceded to Rome?
- CARTHAGE / **CARTHĀGŌ**
- B1: One of those cities on Sicily was which one on the island’s northeastern tip, sitting across a namesake narrow strip of water from the toe of Italy?
- MESSANA / MESSINA
- B2: Another Carthaginian colony was the port of Tingis, which later was occupied by the kings of what kingdom, which the Romans in turn conquered and divided into two western Mediterranean provinces?
- MAURETANIA
13. Give the correct form of the verb **precor**, **precārī** for the following sentence: “**Nōs, discipulī linguae Latīnae, [blank] in templō.**” In other words, give the 1st person plural, present passive-looking form.
- PRECĀMUR**
- B1: Make that form perfect tense.
- PRECĀTĪ/-AE/-A SUMUS**
- B2: Give the correct form of the verb **precor** for the following sentence: “**Multae magistræ arbitrantur discipulōs [blank] in templis.**”
- PRECĀRĪ**
14. Who abducted Chrysippus and later died at the Cleft Way on the way to Delphi, ironically fulfilling the prophecy he had wished to ask about, that his own son Oedipus would kill him?
- LAIUS
- B1: This son was Oedipus, who killed Laius and married what woman, his mother?
- JOCASTA / EPICASTA
- B2: Name the two sons of Oedipus and Jocasta, who went on to fight for the throne of Thebes.
- POLYNICES and ETEOCLES
15. What year B.C. saw Horatius Pulvillus, Valerius Publicola, and Brutus and Collatinus all hold the consulship due to upheaval and conflicts against Tarquinius Superbus, who had just been kicked out?
- 509 B.C.
- B1: Why was Collatinus forced to resign from the consulship?
- HE WAS A RELATIVE OF {TARQUINIUS // THE TARQUINS} // HIS **NŌMEN** WAS TARQUINIUS

B2: In what year shortly thereafter, according to the most common account, were forces allied with Tarquinius Superbus defeated at Lake Regillus?

496 B.C.

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What Latin prepositional root, with what meaning, is shared by “vanguard,” “ancient,” and “antique”?
ANTE, BEFORE [DO NOT ACCEPT ANTĪQUUS]
B1: What English word, derived from **ante**, means “before the flood”?
ANTEDILUVIAN
B2: If this question had started with a word for “after”, it would be putting the cart before the horse. What English word, from Latin words meaning “before” and “after”, originally means “reversed” or “absurd”?
PREPOSTEROUS
17. Who was told by Polyidus to approach the spring of Peirene after sleeping in the Temple of Athena, and used the golden bridle given to him by the goddess to tame the winged horse he met there, Pegasus?
BELLEROPHON
B1: Bellerophon may in fact be Pegasus’ half brother since what god, rather than Glaucus, is sometimes called his father?
POSEIDON
B2: Bellerophon would ultimately lose Pegasus after attempting what impious action?
FLYING TO OLYMPUS
18. Say in the best classical Latin, using **habēō**: “I have great love for the Roman people.” Note that this should not use a dative, but rather an objective genitive.
MAGNUM AMŌREM {POPULĪ RŌMĀNĪ // ERĠĀ / IN POPULUM RŌMĀNUM} HABEŌ
B1: Now say in the best classical Latin: “Let us love the Roman people!”
{AMĒMUS // SINE / PATERE NŌS AMĀRE} POPULUM RŌMĀNUM
B2: Now say in the best classical Latin, using a plural form of **plūs**: “The Roman people has given us more bad things than good things.”
POPULUS RŌMĀNUS NŌBĪS PLŪRA MALA QUAM BONA DEDIT
19. Of the words **cornū**, **negōtium**, **corpus**, **flōs**, and **vēr**, which does NOT belong by gender, being a masculine noun that means “flower”?
FLŌS
B1: Define the other four words: **cornū**, **negōtium**, **corpus**, and **vēr**.
HORN, {TASK / BUSINESS}, BODY, SPRING
B2: Give the meaning and gender of **hiems**.
WINTER; FEMININE
- **SCORE CHECK****
20. What woman bore Alexander Helios and Caesarion to Marc Antony and Julius Caesar respectively, making shrewd use of those ties to further the interests of her native land of Egypt?
CLEOPATRA

B1: What was the chief city of Ptolemaic Egypt, which contained Cleopatra's royal palace and looked out on a marvelous lighthouse on the island of Pharos?

ALEXANDRIA

B2: Name one of the other children of Antony and Cleopatra, besides Alexander Helios.

CLEOPATRA SELENE or PTOLEMY PHILADELPHUS

Intermediate — Semifinals

- Say in Latin, using three ablative words: “I think that Augustus was much greater in virtue than the soldiers.”

PUTŌ AUGUSTUM MĪLITIBUS MULTŌ {MAIŌREM / MELIŌREM} VIRTŪTE FUISSE

B1: Now say in Latin, using the adjective **facilis** and the noun **quaestiō**, **quaestiōnis**: “This is the easiest question of all the ones that I have heard.” Note that you don’t need any word to translate “the ones.”

HAEC EST FACILLIMA QUAESTIŌ OMNIUM QUĀS AUDĪVĪ

B2: Now say in Latin: “Although this question is harder, I will try to respond well.”

QUAMQUAM HAEC QUAESTIŌ DIFFICILIOR EST, {CŌNĀBOR / TEMPTĀBŌ} BENE RESPONDĒRE
- Roman collusion with what ruler was investigated by decree of Gaius Mamilius, whose court exiled Calpurnius Bestia and tracked claims that Rome was a “city for sale” to the riches of Numidia?

JUGURTHA

B1: Some of the only Romans not to be successfully bribed by Jugurtha were what general and what quaestor of his, who convinced Bocchus to betray Jugurtha and thereby captured Numidia?

MARIUS and SULLA

B2: Before Gaius Mamilius, what other tribune had tried to investigate Jugurtha’s bribery and even summoned the king himself to the city of Rome?

(GAIUS) MEMMIUS
- What pair were the first to worship the Muses on Mount Helicon, though they may be better known for stacking Mount Ossa and Pelion to besiege Olympus and capturing Ares in a bronze jar?

ALODAE // OTUS and EPHEALTES

B1: What goddess killed the Alodae by becoming a doe and luring them into hitting each other?

ARTEMIS

B2: Who was the giants’ stepmother, who told the gods of Ares’ imprisonment?

ERIBOEA
- What Latin word with what meaning lies at the root of “sudden”, “perish”, and “ambition”?

EŌ, TO GO

B1: The noun “count” ultimately also comes from **eŏ**. Give the Latin verb and its meaning at the root of the verb “to count”.

(COM)PUTŌ, TO THINK

B2: What English word derived from **eŏ** means “a dazed or unconscious condition”?

TRANCE
- Structures of what sort, one of which was dedicated to the goddess Sulis at a namesake city in western Britain, were built by emperors like Diocletian and Caracalla to promote public health and cleanliness?

BATHS / THERMA(E) / BALNEA(E)

B1: The first monumental baths built in Rome were constructed by what man, who also renovated aqueducts and cleaned the Roman sewers, among other infrastructure projects?

(MARCUS VIPSANIUS) AGRIPPA

B2: Two other Roman emperors built baths at Rome before Caracalla. Name either of them.

TITUS or TRAJAN

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What masculine form of the pronoun **ipse** would be used to fill in the blank in the sentence **Livia timet nē noceat** [blank] **puerō**?

IPSĪ

B1: What form of the pronoun **quisquam** would be used to fill in the blank in the sentence **Livia nōn vult āmittere** [blank] **puerum**?

QUEMQUAM

B2: What would be the form of **quisquam** if **puerum** were instead **puerōs**?

QUŌSQUAM

7. What structure, whose name may derive from a kind of double axe, was evoked by the Crane Dance and constructed by the Athenian craftsman Daedalus to hold the Minotaur?

THE LABYRINTH

B1: How many Athenian youths had to be sacrificed to the minotaur every year?

FOURTEEN (SEVEN YOUNG MEN AND SEVEN YOUNG WOMEN)

B2: What more human name is sometimes given to the Minotaur?

ASTERION or ASTERIUS

8. What grammatical form is present in a Latin phrase that says there's no accounting for taste, a phrase that means "with the necessary things being changed", and the word "memorandum"?

GERUNDIVE(S)

B1: What three-word Latin phrase, containing a comparative adverb, means "the ultimate point of achievement which can be reached"?

NĒ PLŪS ULTRĀ

B2: What other three-word Latin phrase means "insane"?

NŌN COMPOS MENTIS

9. What man eliminated the Arician statesman Turnus Herdonius, then began wars where he built a temple to Jupiter Optimus Maximus and sent his son Sextus to trick his enemies?

(LUCIUS) TARQUINIUS {SUPERBUS // THE PROUD}

B1: Aricia was one of the cities in the Latin League, which fought with and against Superbus. Forces of what city fought with Superbus at the Battle of Lake Regillus under his son-in-law Octavius Mamilius?

TUSCULUM

B2: Among the other Latin cities was what city that Superbus took via the treachery of Sextus?

GABII

10. Distinguish in meaning between **frons**, **frontis** and **frons**, **frondis**.

FOREHEAD and LEAF (RESPECTIVELY)

B1: Now distinguish between **iter** and **item**.

JOURNEY and LIKEWISE

B2: Now distinguish between **fallō** and **fullō**, one of which is a verb and one of which is a noun.

****SCORE CHECK****

11. What two consecutive emperors, of whom the first was known for his travel and love of Greek culture, the next for never leaving Italy between 138 and 161 A.D., both built namesake walls in Britain?
HADRIAN and ANTONINUS PIUS
B1: In what year did Hadrian's reign begin?
117 A.D.
B2: Name the wife of either Hadrian or of Antoninus Pius, the latter of whom received a major temple shortly after her death.
VIBIA SABINA or FAUSTINA THE ELDER
12. What son of Echion followed a foreign priest to Mount Cithaeron, where he climbed a tree before being mistaken for a lion and torn apart by a crowd of women including his own mother, Agave?
PENTHEUS
B1&2: For 5 points each, what pair of old men violated Pentheus' orders by taking part in Dionysus' revelries? One is Pentheus' maternal grandfather, while the other later dies by drinking from Tilphussa.
CADMUS and TIRESIAS
13. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I shall read twice, then answer in **Latin** the question that follows:
Tandem Lūcius narrāvit lātrōnibus sē in spēluncā aurum habēre, quamquam nihil in spēluncā erat. Lātrōnēs Lūcium secūtī sunt, per silvās et trāns flūmina. Tandem invēnērunt spēluncam, sed nūllum aurum vidēbant. Dux irātus fiēbat.
The question: **Quid dīxit Lūcius lātrōnibus?**
SĒ IN SPĒLUNCĀ AURUM HABĒRE
B1: **Quālis erat vĕra spēlunca?**
VACUA
B2: **Quō lātrōnēs iter faciēbant?**
AD SPĒLUNCAM
14. Of the nouns **iaculum**, **baculum**, **ientāculum**, and **saeculum**, which is most likely to be used in **proeliō**?
IACULUM
B1: Of **vinculum**, **spīculum**, and **culmen**, which is most likely to be used to restrain a **captīvus** after a battle?
VINCULUM
B2: Of **vestis**, **carcer**, **pōculum**, and **caupō**, which is the most likely place to hold a **captīvus** after a battle?
CARCER
15. Who drove Aglaurus and Herse mad with his half-snake body after he was born from Hephaestus's semen hitting the ground and became king of Athens?
ERICHTHONIUS

B1: Aglaurus and Herse were the daughters of what legendary Athenian king, who similarly was described to have a half-snake body?

CECROPS

B2: What sister of Aglaurus and Herse refused to look in the box containing Erichthonius, and thus was rewarded for her faithfulness?

PANDROSUS

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What site, where Caesar's ally Scribonius Curio suffered a defeat in 49 B.C., also saw a Roman defeat in 255 B.C. when Xanthippus was summoned to help the Carthaginians beat Atilius Regulus?

BAGRADAS (RIVER) VALLEY

B1: What battle of 203 B.C., which saw the defeat of Syphax and Hasdrubal Gisco, is not generally called a Battle of Bagradas Valley, but nevertheless took place in the valley of the Bagradas River?

(BATTLE OF) CAMPI MAGNI

B2: Attius Varus, the governor who defeated Scribonius Curio, was in turn killed at what battle of 45 B.C., which saw the end of Caesar's campaigns against the Pompeian forces?

(BATTLE OF) MUNDA

17. Translate into English: "**Vīta nostra modo coeperat cum eam perdidimus.**" An extra hint: in this sentence, **modo** means "just."

OUR LIFE HAD JUST BEGUN WHEN WE {WASTED / DESTROYED} IT

B1: Translate into English: "**Sum modo pauper puer, quamquam fābula mea rārō nārrātur.**"

I AM JUST A POOR BOY, THOUGH MY STORY IS SELDOM TOLD

B2: Translate into English: "**Ōceanus est dēsertum cūius vīta sub terrā est.**"

THE OCEAN IS A DESERT WHOSE LIFE IS UNDER THE GROUND

18. Who was bribed with a golden ball by his mother, and on another occasion took the form of Ascanius, in both cases inflicting an unfortunate woman, Medea and Dido, with his signature love?

EROS/CUPID/AMOR

B1: Who asked Aphrodite to have Eros shoot Medea in order to aid Jason?

HERA

B2: Who is invoked at the start of Book 3 of Apollonius' Argonautica, and is often called the muse of love poetry?

ERATO

19. Succeeding Aemilius Aemilianus and succeeded in turn by his son Gallienus, what emperor's expedition against Shapur I ended in disaster at Edessa when he became the first emperor captured alive in battle?

(PUBLIUS LICINIUS) VALERIAN(US)

B1: In what year did the Battle of Edessa take place?

260 A.D.

B2: Just as Gallienus temporarily ended Valerian's persecution of the Christians, what emperor issued the Edict of Toleration late in life in 311 A.D., ending Diocletian's persecutions?

GALERIUS

****SCORE CHECK****

20. What use of the subjunctive can be found in sentences such as “**Quam sīs audāx nēmō ignorāre potest,**” “**Num vīcissent nēsciēbant,**” and “**Unde Caesar veniat rogat**”?

INDIRECT QUESTION

B1: How many tenses of the subjunctive can be used in indirect questions?

FOUR

B2: In an indirect question like “**Nesciō quō mē vertam,**” meaning “I don’t know where I should turn,” the subjunctive verb also takes on the sense of what independent use of the subjunctive?

DELIBERATIVE (SUBJUNCTIVE)

Intermediate — Finals

1. Since he was believed to be a reincarnation of Bucephalus, what animal was made a high priest of the Roman imperial cult and even appointed as a member of the Senate by his owner, Caligula?
INCITATUS
B1: Caligula was infatuated with what owner of Bucephalus, even supposedly stealing his breastplate from his tomb?
ALEXANDER {THE GREAT // III} (OF MACEDON)
B2: Caligula donned the breastplate of Alexander and rode a horse, perhaps Incitatus, across a bridge of ships that was built across what city's bay, disproving a prediction by an astrologer?
(BAY OF) BAIAE
2. Translate the following into English, then say whether the statement is true or false: "**Plērīque hominēs plūs quam trēs pedēs habent.**" Keep in mind that **plērīque** means "most."
MOST PEOPLE HAVE MORE THAN THREE FEET – FALSE
B1: Translate the following into English, then say whether the statement is true or false: "**Sī in pedibus meīs stem, caput meum sit super pedēs.**"
IF I WERE TO STAND ON MY FEET, MY HEAD WOULD BE HIGHER THAN MY FEET – TRUE
B2: Translate the following into English, then say whether the statement is true or false: "**Sī ambōs pedēs abscīdissem, nunc facilius ambulāre possem.**"
IF I HAD CUT OFF BOTH OF MY FEET, NOW I WOULD BE ABLE TO WALK MORE EASILY – FALSE
3. Complete the following analogy: **sēgnis** is to **alacer** as **saucius** is to what? In other words, give a Latin word meaning "safe" or "unharméd."
SALVUS / TŪTUS / INCOLUMIS / SOSPES / INTEGER
B1: Now complete the following analogy: **gallus** is to **gallina** as **senex** is to what?
ANUS
B2: Now complete the following analogy: **ovis** is to **grex** as **navis** is to what?
CLASSIS
4. Who invented several letters of the Greek alphabet as well as dice, although he is better known for placing a baby Telemachus in front of a plow in order to catch the draft-dodging Odysseus?
PALAMEDES
B1: Odysseus had faked insanity by yoking a donkey and ox and sowing what unusual substance?
SALT
B2: Odysseus framed Palamedes for treason by forging a letter and hiding what in his tent?
GOLD [PROMPT ON "MONEY"]

2025 INTERMEDIATE FINALS VISUAL

5. It's visual time! When told to flip it over, you will have 15 seconds to examine the visual, and a question will follow. You may flip the visual over.
What was the name of crown A, made of oak leaves, which was awarded to a soldier for saving the life of a citizen?

CORŌNA {CĪVICA / QUERCEA}

B1: What was the name for crown **B**, a golden crown adorned with battlements which was awarded to the first soldier to gain entrance to a besieged town?

CORŌNA MŪRĀLIS

B2: What was the name for crown **C**, which was awarded to the first man to board an enemy ship?

CORŌNA {NĀVĀLIS / RŌSTRĀTA / CLASSICA}

****SCORE CHECK****

6. From what Latin noun do we derive the words “auto-da-fé,” “fealty,” “fiancée,” and “affidavit?”

FIDĒS, FAITH

B1: What Latin word, with what meaning, lies at the root of “quaint?”

NOSCŌ, TO KNOW/LEARN ABOUT

B2: What Latin word, with what meaning, lies at the root of “employee?”

PLICO, TO FOLD

7. What son of Triopas, alongside his twenty attendants, ignored a priestess and tried to cut down a sacred tree to build his house, only for the priestess to become Demeter and curse him with eternal hunger?

ERYSICHTHON

B1: What daughter did Erysichthon repeatedly sell into slavery, only for her to escape with shape-shifting?

MESTRA / HYPERMESTRA

B2: Callimachus says what deity, sometimes called Rhamnusia, had noted Erysichthon’s arrogant words to Demeter?

NEMESIS

8. What emperor ruled for less than a year before facing three simultaneous revolts in 193 A.D. — including by Septimius Severus, who was mad at the lavish sums he paid to buy the throne at auction?

(MARCUS) DIDIUS JULIANUS

B1: Among the rebels was what Syrian governor, in favor of whom the crowds passed a resolution? He was the first usurper to be defeated by Severus, who had offered the other partial rule in the meantime.

(PESCENNIUS) NIGER

B2: Crucial in Severus’ victory over the other usurper, Clodius Albinus, were the Rhine legions. One of these remained in Gaul afterwards, eventually backing the revolt of what founder of the Gallic Empire?

POSTUMUS

9. Give a Latin noun that is a synonym of all of the following: **lētum, obitus, interitus, fātum, cāsus**.

MORS

B1: Give a Latin noun that is a synonym of all of the following: **ardor, Venus, dēsīderium**.

AMOR / CUPĪDŌ

B2: Give a Latin noun that is a synonym of all of the following: **sors, cāsus, fors, Parcae**.

FĀTUM / FORTŪNA

10. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I shall read twice, then answer in **English** the question that follows:

Dux irātus manum suam in gladium pōsuit, et rogāvit ubi aurum esset. Dixit senex, “Fortasse vērū aurum fuit amīcī, quōs in itinere invēnimus!” Dux irātissimus eum statim necāvit, et lātrōnēs redīre incēpērunt.

The question: What two things did the bandit leader do?

PLACE HIS HAND ON HIS SWORD AND ASK WHERE THE GOLD WAS

B1: What did the old man say about the gold?

IT WAS THE FRIENDS THEY MADE ALONG THE WAY

B2: What did the bandits do at the end?

START TO GO BACK

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Executed at Formiae in 43 B.C., what man had his hand nailed to the **Rōstra** and tongue stabbed by Fulvia, since his attacks on figures such as Clodius and Catiline made him a dangerous political force?
(MARCUS TULLIUS) CICERO
B1: What town does Cicero share as his birthplace with another famous **novus homō**, Gaius Marius?
ARPINUM
B2: In what series of speeches did Cicero viciously attack Marc Antony, leading Antony to call for his execution?
PHILIPPICS / **PHILIPPICAE**
12. Who, alongside his charioteer Baton, was swallowed by the earth before Periclymenus could kill him, a sad end for this pious seer who had initially refused to join the Seven Against Thebes?
AMPHIARAUS
B1: Who was the only member of the Seven who survived, and had previously feuded with Amphiarus?
ADRASTUS
B2: Adrastus and Amphiarus had agreed that what woman could judge any disputes between them?
ERIPHYLE [PROMPT on AMPHIARAUS' WIFE or ADRASTUS' SISTER)
13. In what context would one encounter the Latin phrases “**Pendente līte**”, “**ex parte**”, “**amīcus curiae**” and “**habeās corpus**”?
LEGAL/LAW (ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS)
B1: What two-word Latin phrase, used to describe the knowledge that an act is illegal, means “guilty mind”?
MENS REA
B2: What Latin legal term, a verb form that ultimately comes from a comparative, describes “a grant of the right of an appeal to be heard by an appellate court”?
CERTIŌRĀRĪ
14. What small kingdom had rulers such as Parthamasiris and Tiridates imposed and deposed by Rome or Parthia, and was first invaded in 69 B.C. when Lucullus sacked Tigranocerta and deposed Tigranes?
ARMENIA
B1: What intrepid general and father-in-law of Domitian did Nero send to place a Roman client on the throne of Armenia around 60 A.D.?

B2: During what emperor's reign was the Parthian Empire replaced by the Sassanids in 224 A.D.?

SEVERUS ALEXANDER

15. A sentence such as “**Ēvenit ut nōn morerētur**” contains a subtype of what use of the subjunctive, which also occurs in “**Mare adeō lātum erat, ut nēmō id trānsire posset?**”

RESULT (CLAUSE) [PROMPT ON “SUBSTANTIVE CLAUSE OF RESULT” WITH
“WHICH PART OF THAT IS YOUR ANSWER?”]

B1: What specific use of the subjunctive is present in this sentence: “**Cum mare lātum esset et nēmō trānsire posset, homō fortis in eō nihilōminus nāvigāre temptāvit.**”

CUM CONCESSIVE [PROMPT ON “CUM CLAUSE”]

B2: What use of the subjunctive might you expect if you see a phrase like **eō cōnsiliō** in the main clause?

PURPOSE (CLAUSE)

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Say in good Latin using **discō**: “Do not ask how Caesar learned to fight.” Keep in mind that the third principal part of **discō** is **didicī**.

NŌLĪ(TE) {QUAERERE / ROGĀRE} QUŌMODO CAESAR PUGNĀRE DIDICERIT

B1: Now say in good Latin: “Let us follow virtue in order to live a good life.”

VIRTŪTEM SEQUĀMUR UT BONAM VĪTAM VĪVĀMUS

B2: Now say in good Latin: “Let no one say that we have not followed virtue.”

NĒMŌ {DĪCAT / LOQUĀTUR} NŌS VIRTŪTEM NŌN SECŪTŌS/-ĀS ESSE

17. Who burned his father-in-law Deioneus to death before being purified by Zeus, a kindness he repaid by attempting to seduce Hera, which resulted in him being strapped to a burning wheel as punishment?

IXION

B1: Ixion was the father of what Lapith king, a friend of Theseus?

PIRITHOUS

B2: Who was created from clouds to take Hera's form and confirm Ixion's guilt?

NEPHELE

18. After escaping a massacre instigated by Servius Sulpicius Galba, what shepherd led several years of guerilla warfare against Rome in the 140s B.C., making him a national hero of his native Portugal?

VIRIATHUS

B1: What commander of the early 1st century B.C. created a Roman splinter state, complete with its own senate, and claimed divine protection via a white doe?

(QUINTUS) SERTORIUS

B2: What treacherous lieutenant put an end to Sertorius' rebellion?

(MARCUS) PERPERNA

19. In what case and use might you find a word such as **ūsus**, **cūra**, **praesidium**, or **auxilium** when they are paired with a dative of reference in the so-called “double dative” construction?

DATIVE OF PURPOSE

B1: What use of the dative is found in sentences like “**Gladius mihi ex manibus extorquētur**” and “**Fortūna hominibus glōriam ēripit**”?

(DATIVE OF) SEPARATION

B2: What case and use can appear after **ubi** in an idiomatic expression meaning “where in the world”?

PARTITIVE GENITIVE

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Who lost her father and seven brothers after her home city, Hypoplacian Thebe, was sacked, and in Book 6 of the Iliad runs to Troy’s wall with her son, Astyanax, to see if her husband Hector is alive?

ANDROMACHE

B1: Although the people called him Astyanax, what name was the babe called by Hector after a nearby river?

SCAMANDRIUS

B2: Name the father of Andromache, whom Achilles buried still in his armor out of respect.

EËTION