

Harvard Certamen 2025

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Novice — Preliminary Round One

1. What god's train of attendants can include the brothers Phobos and Deimos, the goddess Eris, and animals like the dog and the vulture as he enters the blood-stained fields of battle?
ARES
B1: What was one of the things that Phobos or Deimos personified?
FEAR / PANIC / TERROR
B2: Enyo was the Greek personification of war. What was her Roman name?
BELLONA
2. What Latin noun refers to the area where you might find **nūbēs**, **stēllae**, **sōl**, or **lūna**?
CAELUM / AXIS / POLUS
B1: Define either of the forms **nūbēs** or **stēllae**.
CLOUD(S) or STARS
B2: Define either the noun **hiems** or **aestās**, which are antonyms.
WINTER or SUMMER
3. What man, whose head magically caught on fire when he was a boy, performed the first census and constructed the first wall around Rome when he became king following Tarquinius Priscus?
SERVIUS TULLIUS
B1: Unlike his predecessors who were of a noble background, Servius Tullius supposedly was raised in what social position?
(A) SLAVE / SERVANT
B2: What wife of Tarquinius Priscus told the prophecy which allowed Servius Tullius to pursue his regal ambitions?
TANAQUIL
4. Translate into English: "**Fēmina puerō mālum dabat.**" Keep in mind that **mālum** means "apple."
THE WOMAN {GAVE / WAS GIVING} THE BOY AN {APPLE / FRUIT} [ACCEPT "A BAD THING"
INSTEAD OF "AN APPLE," EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE WRONG MACRONIZATION]
B1: Translate into English: "**Mox puerī puellaeque māla habēbunt.**"
SOON THE BOYS AND GIRLS WILL HAVE APPLES
B2: Translate into English: "**Mālum fēminae in viam cecidit.**"
THE WOMAN'S APPLE FELL {INTO / ONTO} THE ROAD
5. What man, just as a group of girls prepared to fold their washed clothes and return to Alcinoüs's palace, emerged to beg for shelter from Nausicaä, explaining how he had been driven from Calypso's isle?
ODYSSEUS

B1: Name Calypso's island, on which Odysseus stayed for seven years, supposedly unwillingly.

OGYGIA

B2: Name Alcinoüs's wife, a model of excellence from whom Odysseus later receives shelter.

ARETE

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Which one of the following four Roman provinces did not border the Mediterranean Sea: Aegyptus, Achaia, Armenia, Africa?

ARMENIA

B1: Which one of the following four Roman provinces did not border the Mediterranean Sea: Lusitania, Syria, Dalmatia, Sardinia?

LUSITANIA

B2: Which one of the following four Roman provinces *did* border the Mediterranean Sea: Gallia Lugdunensis, Gallia Belgica, Gallia Aquitania, Gallia Narbonensis?

GALLIA NARBONENSIS

7. Of the adverbs **nunc**, **hodiē**, **ibi**, and **saepe**, which does NOT belong by meaning, because it refers primarily to space rather than time?

IBI

B1: Give an adverb that means "then."

TUM / TUNC / DEINDE

B2: Give an adverb that means "scarcely."

VIX

8. An immortal part of what creature was buried under a giant rock after its mortal equivalents were burned off with the help of Iolaüs, who ensured that they did not regrow as Heracles chopped them off?

(LERNAEAN) HYDRA

B1: That was Heracles' second labor, but his first labor also had an interesting method of killing a creature. In what specific manner did Heracles kill this creature after stunning it with his club?

CHOKED / STRANGLED (THE NEMEAN LION WITH HIS BARE HANDS)

B2: Heracles also defeated what other creature cleverly, driving it into deep snow until it couldn't move?

ERYMANTHIAN BOAR

9. What two-word Latin phrase, literally meaning "great work," generally refers to a piece of art, music, or literature that is seen as the culmination of its creator's career?

MAGNUM OPUS

B1: What Latin phrase literally refers to an erased writing-tablet but more generally means "blank slate"?

TĀBULA RĀSA

B2: What Latin phrase, literally meaning "of its own kind," refers to something unique or in a class by itself?

SUĪ GENERIS

10. Whose first choices for successors were Marcellus and Agrippa, the latter of whom had helped him win

the 31 B.C. Battle of Actium in order to establish the Empire?

AUGUSTUS

B1: Augustus's struggles to balance the need to choose a successor carefully with the time pressures that various crises put on him can be summed up with what two-word Latin motto of his, which means "make haste slowly"?

FESTINĀ LENTĒ

B2: After Marcellus and Agrippa, Augustus's next planned successors were his two grandsons, though their deaths in 2 and 4 A.D. stopped them from reaching the throne. Name either one of them.

GAIUS CAESAR or LUCIUS CAESAR

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Translate into Latin: "The sailor will be on the water."

NAUTA IN AQUĀ ERIT

B1: Now translate into Latin: "The sailors will be on the boat."

NAUTAE IN NĀVE ERUNT

B2: Translate into Latin, using the appropriate feminine singular form of the relative pronoun: "The sailors will be on the boat, which is on the water."

NAUTAE ERUNT IN NĀVE, QUAE IN AQUĀ EST

12. Leaving his son to carry on the war against Jewish revolt, who defeated the forces of Vitellius to become the fourth emperor of 69 A.D. and start a dynasty that also included Titus and Domitian?

VESPASIAN

B1&2: For five points each, name the first two emperors of 69 A.D.

GALBA and OTHO

13. Of case, gender, declension, and number, in which property do adjectives NOT need to agree with nouns?

DECLENSION

B1: A verb has five properties: person, number, tense, mood, and what other property?

VOICE [ACCEPT A DESCRIPTION LIKE "ACTIVE VS. PASSIVE"]

B2: Of -s, -x, -t, -r, and -e, which letter is least likely to be found at the end of a nominative singular noun form?

-T

14. What hero fulfilled a Delphic prophecy that he would be the death of his grandfather by accidentally killing Acrisius, though one story says he deliberately did so by petrifying him with Medusa's head?

PERSEUS

B1: Name Perseus' mother, whom Acrisius imprisoned when he learned of the prophecy.

DANAË

B2: When Danaë had Perseus, Acrisius tossed both in a chest that washed up on Seriphos. There they were found by a fisherman whose brother was the king. Name both the fisherman and the king.

DICTYS and POLYDECTES

15. What room in a Roman **domus**, where you would find a **compluvium** and an **impluvium**, was the central room of the house?

ĀTRIUM / ATRIUM

B1: What was the name for the dining room, which notably had three couches?

TRĪCLĪNIUM

B2: What was the name for the bedroom?

CUBICULUM

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What Latin verb, with what meaning, lies at the root of “envy”, “evidence”, and “visible”?

VIDEŌ – (TO / I) SEE

B1: What English word, derived from **videŏ**, means “the face or appearance of a person”?

VISAGE

B2: What English word, derived from **videŏ**, means “to determine the boundaries of something by means of measurements”?

SURVEY

17. Who fell asleep on the island of Naxos only to wake and find that Theseus had left her, a poor repayment for her betrayal of her father Minos and assistance in escaping the Labyrinth?

ARIADNE

B1: What god of wine found and married Ariadne after her abandonment?

DIONYSUS

B2: What object did Dionysus place in the sky as the Corona Borealis to honor his wedding to her?

CROWN

18. Of the adjectives **sacer**, **pulcher**, **celer**, and **noster**, which declines differently from the rest, being a third-declension adjective that means “swift”?

CELER

B1: Of the adjectives **aeger**, **āter**, **miser**, and **vester**, which declines differently from the rest in terms of what happens with its stem, even though they are all first and second declension adjectives?

MISER [IT RETAINS THE E IN OTHER FORMS]

B2: What adjective, which overlaps in form with a noun meaning “children,” also retains the e in its other forms?

LĪBER

19. What man, the son of Aemilius Paullus but adopted by another prominent family, made the order in 146 B.C. for salt to be sown on the territory of what was once Carthage?

(PUBLIUS CORNELIUS) SCIPIO AEMILIANUS

B1: Another son of Aemilius Paullus was adopted into what **gēns**, which had produced a 217 B.C. dictator known as the “shield of Rome”?

FABII / GĒNS FABIA

B2: What Greek city was also sacked in 146 B.C. by Lucius Mummius?

CORINTH

****SCORE CHECK****

20. What Latin verb, which can be paired with a dative of possession to mean “to have,” more commonly is followed by a predicate nominative when it means “to be”?

SUM / ESSE

B1: What compound of **sum** means “to be able”?

POSSUM / POSSE

B2: Give two verbs meaning “to call,” which can take a predicate nominative when they are passive.

VOCŌ and **APPELLŌ** [ALSO ACCEPT **DĪCŌ**]

Novice — Preliminary Round Two

1. What emperor, who co-ruled with Lucius Verus, was the second emperor to build a triumphal column for himself, a far cry from the philosophical, Stoic approach to glory he describes in his *Meditations*?
MARCUS AURELIUS
B1: What emperor, who reigned from 81 to 96 A.D., banished philosophers from Rome in 89 due to repeated opposition from Stoic thinkers?
(TITUS FLAVIUS) DOMITIAN(US)
B2: Who was the first emperor to build a triumphal column for himself?
TRAJAN // (MARCUS ULPIUS) TRAIANUS
2. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I shall read twice, then answer in **English** the question that follows:
Ōlim in Arcadiā habitābat magna ursa. Ursa piscēs amābat, sed piscēs invenīre nōn poterat. Cotīdiē ad flūmen ambulābat et cēnam petēbat. Tandem, misera ursa domum revēniēbat. Ēheu!
The question: What was the bear not able to find?
FISH
B1: How often did the bear go to the river?
EVERY DAY
B2: What did the bear do at the river?
LOOK FOR DINNER
3. Not even an embassy by three honored envoys rouses what man, whose outrage at the seizure of his lover Briseis is only beaten by his grief at Patroclus' death, which finally leads him to fight the Trojans?
ACHILLES
B1: Achilles had to give away Briseis after what god demanded the restoration of Chryseis to her father?
APOLLO
B2: Odysseus was one of the envoys to Achilles. Name either of the other two.
AJAX {TELAMON // THE GREAT} or PHOENIX
4. Complete the following analogy: **ambūlare : ambūlās :: vincere : ____**.
VINCIS
B1: Complete the following analogy: **ambūlās : ambūlābat :: audīs : ____**.
AUDIĒBAT
B2: Complete the following analogy: **amāre : amat :: amārī : ____**.
AMĀTUR
5. What office, which in 367 B.C. the **lēx Licinia Sextia** opened to plebeians, was first held by Lucius Brutus and Collatinus after they expelled the kings and split the highest office between two men?
CONSULSHIP // CONSULATE // CONSUL
B1: What political office was created after the first Secession of the Plebs and given greater power by subsequent secessions to defend the interests of the plebeians?
(PLEBEIAN) TRIBUNATE // TRIBUNE (OF THE PLEBS)

B2: What law, which may have been passed to allow for advantageous marital alliances between families, legalized intermarriage between the plebeians and the patricians in 445 BC?

LĒX CANULEIA

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Who, though he had warned his brother never to accept a gift from Zeus, saw his brother accept Pandora as a wife, thus completing the cycle that began when he used a fennel-stalk to steal fire from the gods?

PROMETHEUS

B1: Name this brother of Prometheus, for whom much was simply an afterthought.

EPIMETHEUS

B2: To punish Prometheus for his theft of fire, Zeus sent an eagle to eat what part of his body everyday?

LIVER

7. Let's play "three truths and a lie"! Which of these is a lie? "There are no neuter first-declension nouns." "Latin verbs have six tenses." "‘Agent’ is a use of the accusative." "Adverbs never decline."

‘AGENT’ IS A USE OF THE ACCUSATIVE

B1: Which of these, if any, is a lie? "Nominative and accusative always look the same in neuter nouns."

"The future perfect active is formed with the third principal part." "**Salvē** and **valē** are imperative."

ALL ARE TRUE

B2: Which of these, if any, is a lie? "The preposition **extrā** always takes the accusative." "**Euge** is something you say when you're happy." "Imperatives always end in a vowel."

IMPERATIVES ALWAYS END IN A VOWEL [CF. THE IRREGULAR SHORTENED IMPERATIVES **DŪC, **FAC**, ETC.]**

8. Distinguish in meaning between **moneō** and **māneō**.

(TO / I) WARN and (TO / I) REMAIN (RESPECTIVELY)

B1: Distinguish in meaning between **dēbeō** and **doceō**.

(TO / I) OWE and (TO / I) TEACH (RESPECTIVELY)

B2: Distinguish in meaning between **salīō** and **soleō**.

(TO / I) JUMP and {(TO) BE // I AM} ACCUSTOMED (RESPECTIVELY)

9. What two men, defeated at the Battle of Philippi, were the figureheads of a group that inflicted 23 stab wounds on a recently-appointed "dictator for life," Julius Caesar?

(MARCUS JUNIUS) BRUTUS and (GAIUS) CASSIUS (LONGINUS)

B1: On what exact month, day, and year was Caesar assassinated?

MARCH 15, 44 B.C. [PROMPT ON "THE IDES OF MARCH" WITH "WHAT DATE WAS THAT?"]

B2: The assassination of Caesar took place in what building, which Pompey had completed in 55 B.C.?

THEATER OF POMPEY

10. What animals, which people like Pholus partly resembled, were unable to be tamed by Phaethon, and inspired a deceitful sacrifice to win Troy for the Greeks, a hollow wooden example of these animals?

HORSES

B1: Horses were first tamed by what deity who invented the bridle and earlier won a competition against their creator?

ATHENA

B2: What mighty son of Priam was called the tamer of horses by the Trojan forces?

HECTOR

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Translate into Latin: “The bear sleeps in the forest.”

{URSUS / URSA} IN SILVĀ DORMIT

B1: Translate into Latin: “The bear comes from the mountains.”

{URSUS / URSA} EX MŌNTIBUS VENIT

B2: Translate into Latin: “The bear runs with great speed.”

{URSUS / URSA} MAGNĀ (CUM) CELERITĀTE CURRIT

12. What Latin adverb means “twice,” as seen in a medical abbreviation telling you to take a medicine twice a day, **b.i.d.**?

BIS

B1: What Latin abbreviation, often found in academic citations, stands for “and others”? You can give either the abbreviation or the full Latin phrase.

ET AL. // ET {ALIĪ / ALIA}

B2: Give the full Latin for the abbreviation A.M. You might find this abbreviation on a digital clock.

ANTE MERĪDIEM

13. What military unit, commanded at various points by men such as Tigellinus and Sejanus, seems sometimes to have killed more emperors than it protected, despite serving as their bodyguards?

PRAETORIAN GUARD

B1: Tigellinus, like Seneca’s friend Afranius Burrus, was a praetorian prefect under what emperor?

NERO

B2: What emperor, the father of Caracalla and Geta, radically reformed the Praetorian Guard?

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

14. What is the meaning of the Latin adjective at the root of “relief,” “elevate,” “alleviate,” and “lever” — **levis**?

LIGHT

B1: What derivative of **levis** means “cause dough or bread to rise by adding yeast”?

LEAVEN

B2: What is the meaning of the one-syllable Latin adjective at the root of “peer” and “compare”?

EQUAL

15. Aglaea is said to be what deity’s wife, who gifted Harmonia a necklace at her wedding, and at the pleas of Thetis, created the arms of Achilles at his divine forge?

HEPHAESTUS

B1: Hephaestus was more often called the husband of what deity, who had a torrid affair with Ares?

APHRODITE

B2: Hephaestus created a golden basket used by what sister of Cadmus to pick flowers?

EUROPA

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Which of the following does not belong because of meaning: **equus, porcus, coquus, vacca?**
COQUUS
B1: Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of meaning: **pax, rex, dux, consul?**
PAX
B2: Which of the following, if any, does not belong because of meaning: **provincia, proelium, regnum, patria?**
PROELIUM
17. At what battle did Gaius Duilius use **corvī** to win Rome's first major naval victory in 260 B.C. against the Carthaginians during the First Punic War?
(BATTLE OF) MYLAE
B1: What naval battle of 241 B.C. effectively ended the First Punic War?
(BATTLE OF) AEGATES ISLANDS
B2: What battle of 249 B.C. saw Publius Claudius Pulcher disregard the message of his army's sacred chickens, leading to an ignominious defeat?
(BATTLE OF) DREPANA
18. Translate the following sentence about a recent event into English using an expression of time: "**Senātor dīcēbat vigintī et quīnque hōrās.**"
THE SENATOR {WAS SPEAKING / SPOKE} FOR 25 HOURS
B1: Translate the following sentence into English: "**Alī senātōrēs habuērunt quaestiōnēs.**"
OTHER SENATORS HAD QUESTIONS
B2: Translate the following sentence into English: "**Scīsne nōmen senātōris?**"
DO YOU KNOW THE SENATOR'S NAME
19. What kind of object crushed an elderly son of Aeson, obeyed the thoughts of the Phaeacians as they brought Odysseus home, and was built by Argus to carry the Argonauts?
A SHIP
B1: Heracles once used a golden cup for a ship as he sailed to Erytheia to take what monster's cattle?
GERYON
B2: To what god did this cup belong? This god later faced his own bovine problems when Odysseus' crew landed on his island.
HELIOS

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Distinguished by its purple border, what type of toga was worn, for some reason, by both young boys and curule magistrates?
TOGA PRAETEXTA
B1: What was the name for the bright-white toga worn by men running for office?
TOGA CANDIDA
B2: What was the name for the dirty toga worn by people in mourning?
TOGA PULLA

Novice — Preliminary Round Three

1. “Mutiny,” “promote,” “motive,” and “remove” all derive from what Latin verb with what meaning?
MOVEŌ – (TO / I) MOVE
B1: “Compromise” derives from what Latin verb with what meaning?
MITTŌ – (TO / I) SEND
B2: “Connoisseur” derives from what Latin verb with what meaning?
(COG)NŌSCŌ – (TO / I) {DISCOVER // GET TO KNOW}
2. What deity rested at Eleusis after wandering for nine days in search of her daughter, who had, unbeknownst to her, been abducted by her eldest brother and taken to the Underworld?
DEMETER
B1: Demeter nightly placed the prince Demophoon in a fire in order to bestow what boon upon him?
IMMORTALITY/GODHOOD
B2: What mother of Demophoon shrieked after seeing Demeter place her son in the fire?
METANEIRA
3. What three-word Latin motto, whose invention is sometimes credited to Marcus Junius Brutus, was said by the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, and is the motto of Virginia?
SĪC SEMPER TYRANNĪS
B1: What state has the motto “Eureka,” a word which some of its inhabitants might well have uttered if they moved there in the mid-19th century?
CALIFORNIA
B2: While “Eureka” is not Latin but Greek, it is not the only one-word state motto. Name one of the two states that has a one-word Latin motto.
MAINE [DĪRIGŌ] or NEW YORK [EXCELSIOR]
4. What people, whose leader demanded a thousand pounds of gold and shouted “**Vae victīs**,” won the Battle of Allia River before sacking Rome in the early 4th century B.C.?
(SENONIAN) GAULS // SENONES
B1: What Roman came back from exile to drive the Gauls off before the Romans could give them the gold they demanded?
(MARCUS FURIUS) CAMILLUS
B2: According to the traditional date based on Livy, in what year did the Gauls sack Rome?
390 B.C.
5. The second declension is the only one with a unique form for what case — as exemplified by **filī** or **Mārce** — which is used to indicate direct address?
VOCATIVE (CASE)
B1: What case is the rarest case in Latin, but can be used with words such as **Rōma**?
LOCATIVE (CASE)
B2: What is the locative of a first declension plural place name like **Athēnae**?
-ĪS / ATHĒNĪS

****SCORE CHECK****

6. At various points in his life, what man founds the city of Lavinium, visits a city whose queen commits suicide on his departure, and leaves his home city with his father, Ascanius, when the Greeks sack it?
AENEAS
B1: Among the other cities Aeneas visits is Buthrotum, where Aeneas finds what widow of Hector?
ANDROMACHE
B2: Aeneas also visits Pallanteum, the city on the site of the future Rome, meeting what king there?
EVANDER
7. Whose victory at the Colline Gate after a march on Rome in 82 B.C. paved the way for him to become dictator in Rome's first extended civil war, where he crushed supporters of his rival Marius?
(LUCIUS CORNELIUS) SULLA (FELIX)
B1: The civil wars in the 1st century B.C. can be viewed simplistically as a conflict between two loose political factions. Marius belonged to the **populārēs**; what was the name of Sulla's opposing faction?
OPTIMĀTĒS / OPTIMATES
B2: Marius and Sulla had previously collaborated to defeat what Numidian ruler who had bribed his way out of several slippery situations during a war from 111 to 106 B.C.?
JUGURTHA
8. Trained by a **lanista** and including subtypes such as **essedārius** and **rētiārius**, what sort of people would be forced into the Colosseum to fight, potentially to the death?
GLADIATORS
B1: What was the name for the gladiator who fought blindfolded?
ANDĀBATA
B2: What was the name for the gladiator who fought with two swords?
DIMACHAERUS
9. For the verb **dūcō, dūcere**, give the 2nd person plural, future active indicative.
DŪCĒTIS
B1: Now give the 3rd person singular, perfect active indicative of the same verb.
DŪXIT
B2: Now give the 1st person singular, future passive indicative of the same verb.
DŪCAR
10. The wheel of Ixion ceased turning, Cerberus relaxed, and the Furies shed tears after what man came to the Underworld in search of his wife, although he ultimately lost her by looking back as he left?
ORPHEUS
B1: Who was that wife of Orpheus, who died after being bitten by a viper?
EURYDICE
B2: After his death, Orpheus' head and lyre drifted down the Hebrus river, coming to what island where Sappho later wrote poetry?
LESBOS

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Say in Latin: “Where will I see the large island?”
UBI MAGNAM ĪNSULAM VIDĒBŌ?
 B1: Now say in Latin: “Why has the boy walked into the temple?”
CŪR PUER IN TEMPLUM AMBULĀVIT?
 B2: Now say in Latin: “Where did the elephant come from?”
UNDE VĒNIT {ELEPHANTUS / ELEPHĀ(N)S}
12. Who was raised by bears and was the first to strike the Calydonian Boar, but may be better known for outracing suitors until golden apples are used to distract her attention?
ATALANTA
 B1: Into what creatures were Atalanta and her suitor transformed after sleeping together in a temple?
LIONS
 B2: Gve either of the names of the suitor who finally defeated Atalanta.
MELANION or HIPPOMENES
13. What direction would one primarily travel to go from the Taurus Mountains to Atlas Mountains, the Caucasus Mountains to the Pyrenees, or from Mount Olympus to any of Rome’s seven hills?
WEST
 B1: Two sacred Greek mountains, one on Crete and one in the Troad, share what name?
(MT.) IDA
 B2: What Republic-era province had a name that indicated that it was on “this side of the Alps” in Italy?
CISALPINE GAUL // GALLIA CISALPĪNA
14. Who was initially a popular **prīnceps** until an illness in late 37 A.D. drove him to give his horse a role in government and start a reign of terror even worse than that of his predecessor, Tiberius?
CALIGULA / GAIUS
 B1: One of Caligula’s first actions after his illness was to force what praetorian prefect to commit suicide, even though he had possibly smothered Tiberius to make Caligula’s rise to power possible?
(QUINTUS NAEVIUS SUTORIUS) MACRO
 B2: Before his illness, Caligula had generously distributed what he inherited from Tiberius and what mother of Tiberius, Augustus’s third wife?
LIVIA (AUGUSTA / DRUSILLA) [PROMPT ON “JULIA (AUGUSTA)” WITH “WHAT WAS HER NAME BEFORE AUGUSTUS’S DEATH?”]
15. Of the words **argentum**, **oppidum**, **aurum**, and **ferrum**, which does NOT belong, because it is not a metal and instead means “town”?
OPPIDUM
 B1: Identify any two of those metals — **argentum**, **aurum**, and **ferrum**.
ANY TWO OF: ARGENTUM – SILVER; AURUM – GOLD
 B2: Based on your knowledge of the periodic table, what metal is **plumbum** in Latin?
LEAD

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Translate into English: “**Haec arbor alta est, sed illa arbor parva est.**”

THIS TREE IS TALL, BUT THAT TREE IS SMALL

B1: Translate into English: “**Haec arbor est aegrior quam illa.**”

THIS TREE IS {MORE SICK / SICKER} THAN THAT ONE

B2: Translate into English: “**Apollō lacrimat quod haec arbor est aegra.**”

APOLLO WEEPS BECAUSE THIS TREE IS SICK

17. For the phrase “**fēlix agricola**”, give the accusative plural, keeping in mind that the genitive of **fēlix** is **fēlicis**.

FĒLĪCĒS AGRICOLĀS

B1: Now, say “happy farmers” in the accusative plural using a different adjective for “happy.”

{LAETŌS / BEĀTŌS} AGRICOLĀS [MUST BE -ŌS]

B2: Now make “**fēlicēs agricolās**” genitive plural.

FĒLĪCIUM AGRICOLĀRUM

18. What monster, the source of evil winds and the fires of Mount Etna, stole Zeus’ sinews and was a giant with one hundred snake heads on his shoulders, known as the father of monsters with his mate Echidna?

TYPHON

B1: What deity, alongside Aegipan, stole back Zeus’ sinews, a fitting deed for the god of thieves?

HERMES

B2: In what sort of location were Zeus’ sinews hidden, the same sort of place Zeus had been hidden in on Crete as a baby?

CAVE

19. Of the nouns **tempus**, **fīnis**, **mēnsa**, and **bellum**, which is described in the following sentence? “**Geritur ā militibus quī inter sē pugnant.**”

BELLUM

B1: Of the nouns **tempus**, **fīnis**, **mēnsa**, and **fūmus**, which is described in the following sentence?

“**Hominēs circum hoc sedent et cibum capiunt.**”

MĒNSA

B2: Of the nouns **tempus**, **fīnis**, **lacrima**, and **fūmus**, which is described in the following sentence?

“**Celeriter fugit et iuvenēs in senēs vertit.**”

TEMPUS

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Raised to the throne by Orestes and deposed by Odoacer, what emperor’s nickname of “little Augustus” ironically captures his status in 476 A.D. when he was forced to become Western Rome’s last emperor?

ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS

B1: The Eastern Roman Empire still survived, centered on what city?

BYZANTIUM / CONSTANTINOPLE / ISTANBUL

B2: Who was the last emperor to rule over a united Roman empire?

THEODOSIUS (I / THE GREAT)

Novice — Semifinals

1. What was the Latin term that describes the typical path — usually quaestor, praetor, consul — by which men rose through political rank?

CURSUS HONŌRUM

B1: How many lictors attended the consul?

12

B2: Between quaestor and praetor, an aspiring politician might hold what position, which gave them a chance to show off their wealth by putting on lavish public games?

AEDILE

2. What man bored a small hole through a shell and coaxed an ant through it as part of a Cretan king's test, thus outing himself as the only one clever enough to have designed human wings and the Labyrinth?

DAEDALUS

B1: Daedalus built the Labyrinth at Minos' request, but he also served what wife of Minos?

PASIPHAË

B2: On what island did Daedalus pass Minos' test as he stayed with the king of Camicus?

SICILY

3. Translate into English: "**Iūlia nōn potuit nōbīscum advenīre.**" Keep in mind that **nōbīscum** is equivalent to **cum nōbīs**.

{JULIA / IULIA} COULD NOT ARRIVE WITH US

B1: Now translate: "**Gāius multam pecūniam in terrā posuerat.**"

GAIUS HAD PLACED A LOT OF MONEY IN THE GROUND

B2: Now translate: "**Mārcus dīcit sē ad castra venīre.**"

MARCUS SAYS THAT HE IS COMING TO THE CAMP

4. For the adjective **laetus**, give a nominative singular form for all three degrees — positive, comparative, and superlative.

LAETUS/-A/-UM, LAETIOR/LAETIUS, LAETISSIMUS/-A/-UM

B1: Give an accusative singular form in all three degrees of the adjective **laetus**.

LAETUM/-AM/-UM, LAETIŌREM/LAETIUS, LAETISSIMUM/-AM/-UM

B2: Give either the comparative or superlative of **bonus** in the nominative singular.

MELIOR or OPTIMUS/-A/-UM

5. What second cousin of Alexander the Great died from a roof tile a few years after Manius Curius Dentatus defeated him at Maleventum, the third in a series of costly battles from 280-275 B.C.?

PYRRHUS

B1: What agent reported to Pyrrhus that the Roman Senate was an "assembly of kings"?

CINEAS

B2: Who delivered a rousing speech against Cineas, encouraging the Romans to fight on instead of giving in to Pyrrhus's offers of peace?

APPIUS CLAUDIUS CAECUS

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What man looked so handsome as he guarded his flock on Mt. Latmus and gazed at the moon that its goddess came down and laid with him, after which she persuaded Zeus to grant him eternal sleep?
ENDYMION
B1: Selene was often identified with what other goddess, who was called Phoebe in that context?
ARTEMIS
B2: Both Artemis and Selene were called by what name drawn from Artemis' birth-mountain on Delos?
CYNTHIA
7. What two meanings could the form **cāra** have if used as a noun, depending on whether it is feminine singular or neuter plural?
DEAR WOMAN or DEAR THINGS
B1: In the feminine singular, you can imagine **cāra** as modifying an implied **fēmina**. If you see the adjective form **dextra** on its own, it is most likely implied to be modifying what fourth-declension feminine noun?
MANUS
B2: What grammatical term is often used to describe adjectives used as nouns?
SUBSTANTIVE (ADJECTIVES)
8. What emperor, fighting left-handed as a **secūtor** in gladiatorial games, regarded himself as the reincarnation of Hercules and brought shame upon the name of his father, Marcus Aurelius?
COMMODUS
B1: Commodus began his reign by negotiating a settlement to end Marcus Aurelius's long war with the Quadi and Marcomanni, peoples from what general region?
GERMANY / **GERMĀNIA**
B2: In what location was an unsuspecting Commodus successfully strangled to death by his wrestling partner Narcissus on New Year's Eve of 192 AD?
BATH
9. Differentiate in meaning between **vēr** and **vērus**, the former of which is a season.
SPRING and TRUE
B1: Differentiate in meaning between **pauper** and **parātus**.
POOR and PREPARED
B2: Differentiate in meaning between **cēra** and **cūra**.
WAX and CARE
10. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I shall read twice, then answer in **Latin** the question that follows, making sure to respond with grammar that matches the question:
Tandem, ursa cum filiō suō parvō ad mare īvit. Magnum numerum piscium vidēbant et in aquam cucurrerunt. Duās hōrās capiēbant piscēs in aquā, et laetī erant.
The question: **Quālis erat filius?**
PARVUS [DO NOT ACCEPT PARVŌ]
B1: **Quid vidēbat ursa apud mare?**
MAGNUM NUMERUM PISCIMUM [ACCEPT GRAMMATICAL EQUIVALENTS]

B2: **Quam diū ursī in aquā erant?**

DUĀS HŌRĀS

****SCORE CHECK****

11. What Latin verb is most often at the root of the English suffix -fy, as well as the words “confetti,” “perfect,” “facet,” and “faction”?

FACIŌ / FACERE

B1: What Latin verb is at the ultimate root of “betray,” “vendor,” and “pardon”?

DŌ / DARE

B2: What Latin verb is at the ultimate root of “siege,” “residue,” and “preside”?

SEDEŌ / SEDĒRE

12. What city, whose rulers included Proca and Numitor, sent three brothers named Curiatius as representatives in a duel, and was later destroyed by Tullus Hostilius?

ALBA LONGA

B1: The three combatants who fought the Curiatii all shared what **nōmen**?

HORATIUS

B2: A later member of the **Horātiū** named Cocles destroyed what structure, preventing Etruscan invaders from crossing the Tiber River?

PŌNS SUBLICIUS

13. What broad location was inhabited by the formerly-mortal Palaemon and Leucothea, as well as deities like Doris and Tethys, the former of whom was the mother of Amphitrite by her husband, Nereus?

THE SEA / OCEAN

B1: What son of Poseidon and Amphitrite could control the waves by blowing through a conch shell?

TRITON

B2: What god, whose name means “deep sea,” was the son of Gaia and the father of Nereus?

PONTUS

14. **Rēspondē Latinē: Quod animal ex hīs est minimum: pullus, mūs, taurus, vacca?**

MŪS

B1: **Rēspondē Latinē: Quod animal ex hīs est ferōcissimum: ursus, asinus, agnus, avis?**

URSUS

B2: **Rēspondē Latinē: Quod animal ex hīs est saepe sordidum: lepus, lupus, ovis, porcus?**

PORCUS

15. What couple, when they saw their wine refill itself, attempted to kill their guard goose to feed their guests, realizing that the pair of strangers were in fact disguised gods?

BAUCIS AND PHILEMON

B1: What pair of Roman gods were so hospitably received by Baucis and Philemon?

JUPITER AND MERCURY

B2: What wish did the gods grant Baucis and Philemon?

THAT THEY WOULD DIE SIMULTANEOUSLY [PROMPT ON “TURN INTO TREES” WITH “WHAT WISH CAUSED THIS TRANSFORMATION”]

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What name is shared between a man who committed suicide at Utica after the Battle of Thapsus, and a censor of 184 B.C. who ended every speech, regardless of topic, with “**Carthāgō dēlenda est**”?
(MARCUS PORCIUS) CATO
B1: The Battle of Thapsus followed a few years after what pivotal battle of 48 B.C., in which Caesar’s troops forced Pompey to flee to Egypt?
(BATTLE OF) PHARSALUS
B2: Earlier in his career, Cato the Younger supported the execution of what man’s co-conspirators for their role in an attempt to overthrow the consuls of 63 B.C.?
CATILINE // (LUCIUS SERGIUS) CATALINA
17. What Latin word begins the motto of the city of Chicago — [blank] **in hortō** — and is the U in **A.U.C.**, which stands for **ab** [blank] **conditā** and means “from the founding of the city”?
URBS / URBE
B1: The motto of the city of Detroit begins with “**spērāmus meliōra**.” Translate this.
WE HOPE FOR BETTER THINGS
B2: What form completes the blank in the motto of Brown University, “**in** [blank] **spērāmus**”?
DEO
18. Using **oppugnō**, **oppugnāre** for “attack,” say in Latin: “The city was attacked for three days.”
URBS TRĒS DIĒS {OPPUGNĀBĀTUR // OPPUGNĀTA EST}
B1: Translate into Latin: “The gate was at last broken with fire.”
TANDEM PORTA {IGNĪ / IGNE} FRĀCTA EST
B2: Translate into Latin: “Because the army was large, the battle was completed before dinner.”
QUOD EXERCITUS MAGNUS ERAT, PROELIUM ANTE CĒNAM PERFECTUM EST
19. What emperor, who earned the nickname **Graeculus**, restored the Pantheon and undertook to remove threats from the Caledonians by building a large defensive wall in Britain for the first time?
HADRIAN
B1: Hadrian may have adopted his love for Greek art and philosophy from what woman, the wife of his imperial predecessor Trajan?
PLOTINA
B2: Hadrian was willing to retain the inscription on the Pantheon that credited what earlier figure for commissioning it?
(MARCUS VIPSANIUS) AGRIPPA

****SCORE CHECK****

20. What deity’s bad luck in love resulted in the transformation of his heartbroken lover Cypris into a cypress tree and him accidentally striking with a discus his young lover Hyacinthus?
APOLLO
B1: What other deity, a personification of one of the winds, may have led to the death of Hyacinthus when he blew the discus astray?
ZEPHYR(US) // THE WEST WIND
B2: What pet did Cypris accidentally kill, a gift from Apollo?
Novice — Semis

Novice — Finals

2025 NOVICE FINALS VISUAL

1. It's visual time! When told to flip it over, you will have 15 seconds to examine the visual, and a question will follow. Your task will be to identify the redacted form. You may flip the visual over.
This mosaic, found in front of a house in Pompeii, features what second-conjugation imperative form meaning "beware"?

CAVĒ

B1: What phrase also containing a form of **caveō** means "let the buyer beware"?

CAVEAT EMPTOR

B2: Given that **mordeō** means "to bite," what is the meaning of the proverb "**canis timidus vehementius latrat quam mordet**," which contains a comparative adverb?

A SCARED DOG BARKS MORE VEHEMENTLY THAN IT BITES

2. Although his early education had been supervised by bishops, what emperor from 361-363 A.D. may have been killed by a Christian in his army for renouncing the religion of his relative Constantine?

JULIAN (THE APOSTATE)

B1: Julian eventually died in battle at Ctesiphon from a spear being thrown into his side, fighting against what nation led by Shapur II?

PERSIA // PERSIAN EMPIRE

B2: At what battle in 378 A.D. did a Visigothic chieftain defeat Valens, an emperor who came shortly after Julian?

(BATTLE OF) ADRIANOPOLE

3. What group was spared by an island of women who had just killed their husbands — the Lemnians — but then lost Hylas to amorous water-nymphs before meeting Phineus and making their way to Colchis?

ARGONAUTS / MINYANS / MINYAE

B1: Along the way, the Argonauts faced what other group of women, though they were half-avian?

HARPIES

B2: What man's crew also met the Harpies, including Celaeno, being told they would "eat their tables"?

AENEAS

4. Instated at the bottom of the Argiletum, what building was closed only three times before the Imperial period, signifying how rarely Numa Pompilius's goal of total peace was fulfilled?

THE TEMPLE OF JANUS

B1: The Temple of Janus was closed only twice during the Republic. Name one of those occasions. You do not need to provide the exact year, just the circumstances.

AFTER THE FIRST PUNIC WAR (241 or 235 B.C.) or AFTER ACTIUM (29 B.C.)

B2: Numa also constructed a temple of Jupiter with what additional name? Tullus Hostilius died when he failed to perform rites correctly to this aspect of Jupiter.

(JUPITER) ELICIUS

5. What is the meaning of the Latin noun **pulmō**, which can be described as **pars corporis quā spirāre possumus**?

LUNG

B1: **Quid anglicē significat “cutis”?**

SKIN/HIDE

B2: “**Cutis**” can mean “skin” or “hide,” in the noun sense. What is a Latin verb that translates “hide”, in the verb sense?

ABDŌ / CĒLŌ / CONDŌ / LATEŌ

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What man’s death at the hands of Lycomedes perhaps occurred due to self-exile after the tragedy of his wife Phaedra and his son Hippolytus, the former of whom was the half-sister of the Minotaur he’d slain?
THESEUS

B1: Hippolytus was the son of Theseus by a woman of what tribe, which once besieged the Acropolis?
AMAZON(S)

B2: Lycomedes was the king of what island, where Achilles initially hid as a girl to avoid going to Troy?
SCYROS

7. Two nouns in a row, such as “**Caesare consule**,” or a noun and a participle, such as “**Caesare interfectō**,” exemplify what ablative use which gives circumstantial information about a sentence?
(ABLATIVE) ABSOLUTE

B1: Using an ablative absolute and a present active participle, say “As the goddess was walking.”
DEĀ AMBULANTE

B2: Now make **deā ambulante** plural.
DEĀBUS AMBULANTIBUS

8. In what modern-day country did one Scipio’s victories at Ilipa and **Carthāgō Nova** stop Carthaginian expansion about 70 years before another Scipio captured Numantia and its Celtiberian occupants?
SPAIN

B1: What river served as the boundary between Roman and Carthaginian territory in Spain, as agreed upon in its namesake 226 B.C. treaty?
EBRO

B2: What man was sent to negotiate with Numantia in 137 B.C., 4 years before his murder at the hands of a **pontifex maximus**?
TIBERIUS GRACCHUS

9. Translate into English: “**Trēs lupī ad forum cucurrērunt, sed duō sōlī rediērunt.**”
THREE WOLVES RAN TO THE FORUM, BUT TWO ALONE RETURNED.

B1: Translate into English: “**In forō ūnus lupus ā Mārcō magnā vī pulsābatur.**”
IN THE FORUM, ONE WOLF WAS BEING HIT BY MARCUS WITH GREAT FORCE

B2: Translate into English: “**Hic lupus novem diēbus antea ovēs Mārcī rapuerat.**”
THIS WOLF HAD STOLEN MARCUS’S SHEEP NINE DAYS EARLIER

10. What was the Latin term for the inexpensive elementary teacher who taught reading, writing, and grammar to Roman youths, and was also called a **magister litterārum**?
LITTERĀTOR

B1: What was the term for the enslaved person who accompanied a child to school?

B2: What was the term for market days that were recognized as school holidays?

NUNDĪNAE

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Say in Latin: “Don’t kill the soldier whom you love!”

{NŌLĪ / NŌLĪTE} {INTERFICERE / NECĀRE} MĪLITEM QUEM {AMĀS / AMĀTIS}

B1: Say in Latin using **sepulchrum** for “grave”: “Where will we place the dead soldier’s grave?”

UBI PŌNĒMUS SEPULCHRUM MĪLITIS MORTUĪ

B2: Say in Latin: “He does not want to announce the death of the friendly soldier.”

NŌN VULT NŪNTIĀRE MĪLITIS AMĪCĪ MORTEM

12. Who was accompanied by Peisistratus as he journeyed to Sparta from Pylos, and is regaled by Nestor and Menelaus with stories of the Trojan War and his lost father, Odysseus?

TELEMACHUS

B1: At Sparta, Menelaus describes questioning what shape-changing sea god about the fate of Odysseus?

PROTEUS

B2: At Pylos, Telemachus arrives at a sacrifice of bulls to what god, described in Book 1 as attending a feast of the Ethiopians?

POSEIDON

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

Post cēnam apud mare, laetī ursī domī dormiēbant. Subitō piscis magnus, cui duo pedēs erant, domum intrāvit. “Ecce rēgem piscium!” inquit piscis, et ursōs dēvorāvit. Ēheu!

The question: **Quid habēbat piscis?**

{DUŌS / DUO} PEDĒS

B1: **Ubi piscis ursōs invēnit?**

DOMĪ

B2: **Quis erat piscis?**

RĒX PISCIUM

14. Recruiting Rome’s old enemy Hannibal as a naval admiral, what monarch launched a 192 B.C. attack against Greece, but was defeated at Magnesia and saw his Seleucid Empire reduced in size?

ANTIOCHUS {III // THE GREAT}

B1: What battle of 197 B.C. had led Rome to proclaim freedom for all the Greek states?

(BATTLE OF) CYNOSCEPHALAE

B2: At the Battle of Magnesia, what brother of Scipio Africanus was consul, though both he and Africanus fell ill shortly before the battle?

LUCIUS (CORNELIUS) SCIPIO (ASIATICUS)

15. Of the English words “agriculture,” “acre,” “acid,” and “pilgrim,” which does NOT belong by derivation, since it has nothing to do with a farm or land?

ACRID

B1: “Acrid” is derived from Latin **ācer**, **ācris**. What other English word derived from **ācer** means “a sauce made of an acidic liquid, oil, and other ingredients used as a salad dressing”?

VINAIGRETTE

B2: What English word, ultimately derived from **ager**, **agrī**, means “foreign” or “migratory”?

PEREGRINE

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What city, ruled by kings such as Amphion and Zethus, was founded near a grove and dragon sacred to Ares, in the location where a cow had laid down after being followed by Cadmus?

THEBES

B1: Cadmus had not set out to found a city, but to locate what lost sister of his?

EUROPA

B2: What group grew from the teeth of Ares’ dragon and became the nobility of the newly founded city?
SPARTOI (prompt on THE SOWN MEN)

17. Ultimately defeated by Verginius Rufus, what governor of Gallia Lugdunensis briefly allied with Galba during a 68 A.D. revolt against Nero that set the stage for the Year of the Four Emperors?

(GAIUS JULIUS) VINDEX

B1: Nero’s reign also saw Suetonius Paulinus put down a revolt by what ruler, which destroyed cities like Verulamium and Camulodunum?

BOUDICCA

B2: What rebel in the East was defeated in 272 A.D., shortly before the emperor turned his eyes toward another breakaway empire in the West?

ZENOBIA

18. When recognized by the spotter, please perform the following command, taking **simulō** as “pretend”:
“**Tē in marī esse simulā et piscēs capere temptā.**”

PLAYER SHOULD PRETEND TO BE IN THE SEA AND TRY TO CATCH FISH

B1: Now perform the following command: “**Omnēs surgite et saltāte sicut pullī.**”

ALL PLAYERS SHOULD STAND AND DO THE CHICKEN DANCE (OR OTHERWISE DANCE
LIKE CHICKENS)

B2: Now perform the following command, taking **saltātiō**, **saltātiōnis** as “dance”: “**Omnēs Anglicē dīcite moderātōrī: ‘Nōs adultī sumus, nōn iuvenēs. Nōn cupimus stultās saltātiōnēs facere.’**”

ALL PLAYERS SHOULD SAY IN ENGLISH TO THE MODERATOR: “WE ARE ADULTS, NOT
YOUTHS. WE DO NOT WANT TO DO STUPID DANCES.”

19. Who swore his brother would pay as no man ever had for seducing his wife, then fed that brother’s sons to him, although he is better known as the father of two great kings, Menelaus and Agamemnon?

ATREUS

B1: What wife of Agamemnon plotted his murder in revenge for her daughter’s death?

CLYTEMNESTRA

B2: She was assisted by what man, the son and grandson of Atreus’ brother Thyestes?

AEGISTHUS

****SCORE CHECK****

20. What meaning is shared by the verbs **subveniō**, **iuvō**, and **adiuvō**, as well as the phrase **auxilium ferō**?
(TO / I) HELP // COME TO THE AID (OF) // BRING HELP (TO)
- B1: What is the meaning of the idiom **sē recipere**?
(TO) RETREAT
- B2: What is the meaning of the idiom **poenās dare**?
(TO) {PAY THE PENALTY // BE PUNISHED}