

## Princeton Certamen 2025

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### Novice — Preliminary Round One

1. What sort of geographic feature were all of the following: Viminal, Caelian, Aventine, Capitoline?  
HILL (OF ROME)  
B1&2: Name the three remaining hills in addition to the Viminal, Caelian, Aventine, and Capitoline.  
You will get 5 points for the first two and another 5 points for the last one.  
PALATINE, ESQUILINE, and QUIRINAL
2. Translate into English: “**Discipulī ad scholam laetē ambulant.**”  
THE STUDENTS WALK TO SCHOOL HAPPILY  
B1: Now translate: “**Magister discipulīs dīcit: ‘Salvēte!’**”  
THE TEACHER SAYS TO THE STUDENTS: “{HELLO / GREETINGS}!”  
B2: Now translate: “**Magister discipulōs docet poētās esse.**”  
THE TEACHER TEACHES THE STUDENTS TO BE POETS
3. The building of the Regia and introduction of Vestal Virgins were both done on the advice of the nymph Egeria by what king, who established the basics of Roman religion after succeeding Romulus?  
NUMA POMPILIUS  
B1: During Numa’s reign, what god, who has no Greek equivalent, received a temple whose doors would be closed in times of peace?  
JANUS  
B2: Numa also created a college of 12 “jumping” priests who carried the **ancilia** in a procession. Name either the priests or the god to whom they were dedicated.  
SALIŪ / MARS
4. What mythological group, living at Themiscyra, included children of Ares such as Penthesilea, Antiope, Hippolyta, and other women known for their prowess in battle?  
AMAZONS  
B1: What woman encountered the Amazons during her long wanderings while in the form of a cow, which eventually brought her to Egypt?  
IO  
B2: According to Aeschylus, the Amazons originally lived in the Caucasus mountains, where what son of Iapetus was chained up by Zeus as a punishment?  
PROMETHEUS
5. What is the meaning of the Latin noun at the root of “cabbage,” “chief,” and “captain,” all of which derive from **caput**?  
HEAD

B1: What muscle of the human body literally has “two heads,” according to its Latin etymology?  
BICEP(S)

B2: What English word meaning “surrender” derives from the Latin noun **caput**?  
CAPITULATE

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

6. What deity tricked Semele into seeing her lover’s true form and caused a hero to kill his own children and perform his twelve Labors — both acts of jealousy for Zeus’s affairs?  
HERA

B1: Both of these events took place in what city founded by Cadmus?  
THEBES

B2: The children Heracles killed were his sons by what wife?  
MEGARA

7. A tribune of the Praetorian Guard named Cassius Chaerea put an end to what emperor, who threatened to make his horse Incitatus consul and otherwise wreaked havoc on Rome’s institutions?  
CALIGULA

B1: What is the meaning of Caligula’s name?  
LITTLE BOOT(S)

B2: What was Caligula’s relationship to his successor, Claudius?  
HE WAS CLAUDIUS’S NEPHEW // CLAUDIUS WAS HIS UNCLE

8. Of the verbs “clean,” “fight,” “eat,” and “sleep,” which is most closely associated with Latin nouns such as “**scūtum**” and “**gladius**” and verbs such as “**pugnāre**”?  
FIGHT

B1: **Quid Anglicē significat “gravis”?**  
HEAVY

B2: **Quid Anglicē significat “gaudium”?**  
JOY

9. Give the dative singular of the Latin phrase that means “tall wall” — **altus mūrus**.  
ALTŌ MŪRŌ

B1: Now give the genitive plural of the Latin phrase that means “true goddess.”  
VĒRĀRUM DEĀRUM

B2: Now give the ablative singular of the Latin phrase that means “dear city.”  
CĀRĀ URBE

10. Known for saving the Argonauts from the Sirens using his mother Calliope’s gift of song, what man nevertheless could not help looking backwards and failed to save his deceased wife Eurydice?  
ORPHEUS

B1: Orpheus was later killed by Maenads, fanatical worshippers of what god alongside the Satyrs?  
DIONYSUS / BACCHUS

B2: What ill-fated music teacher of Heracles was in some versions a brother of Orpheus?  
LINUS

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

11. A **caldārium**, **frīgidārium**, and **apodyterium** are all found in what type of building in Ancient Rome?  
THERMAE / BATHS  
B1: What was the purpose of the **apodytērium**?  
CHANGING ROOM  
B2: What tool would often be found in baths for scraping the body of dirt or waste?  
STRIGIL
12. Of the prepositions **ab**, **ante**, **ex**, and **cum**, which does NOT take the ablative and means “before”?  
ANTE  
B1: Of the prepositions **sine**, **contrā**, **inter**, and **ad**, which does NOT take the accusative?  
SINE  
B2: The preposition **sub** can take either the accusative or the ablative. In the sentence “The bear ran under the table,” which case would you use and why?  
ACCUSATIVE, BECAUSE THE SENTENCE HAS MOTION
13. What mythological event was indirectly caused at the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, where Eris threw an apple that led to the Judgment of Paris, the kidnapping of Helen, and a ten-year war?  
THE TROJAN WAR // THE FALL OF TROY [PROMPT ON “JUDGMENT OF PARIS” OR “KIDNAPPING OF HELEN” WITH “CAN YOU GO A STEP FURTHER?”]  
B1: What was written on Eris’s apple?  
“FOR THE FAIREST” // καλλίστη  
B2: Homer’s *Iliad* narrates only part of the Trojan War. Of the following events, how many are directly narrated in the *Iliad*, and which? 1. Greek forces gather at Aulis to sail to Troy; 2. Patroclus dies while wearing Achilles’s armor; 3. Odysseus comes up with the Trojan Horse.  
ONLY THE DEATH OF PATROCLUS
14. Say in Latin: “Where are the farmers today?”  
UBI SUNT AGRICOLAE HODIĒ?  
B1: Now say in Latin: “Do the farmers love the fatherland?”  
AMANTNE AGRICOLAE PATRIAM? [ACCEPT -NE ON WHATEVER THE FIRST WORD OF THE SENTENCE IS]  
B2: Now say in Latin: “Why were the men sad?”  
CŪR VIRĪ {MISERĪ / TRĪSTĒS} ERANT?
15. What war saw the first naval victory in Roman history off the coast of Sicily in 260 B.C. near Mylae after the Romans entered into their first conflict with the African city of Carthage?  
FIRST PUNIC WAR  
B1: A notable disaster in the First Punic War came at Drepana after Claudius Pulcher threw what sort of sacred animal into the sea in response to bad omens?  
CHICKEN(S)  
B2: What commander led Rome to their naval victory at Mylae using the **corvus**, a sort of grappling-iron?  
(GAIUS) DUILIUS

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

16. Differentiate in meaning between the verbs “**vincō**” and “**vivō**.”  
(TO / I) {WIN / CONQUER / DEFEAT} and (TO / I) LIVE (RESPECTIVELY)  
B1: Both of these verbs have almost the same 4th principal part except for vowel lengths. Give the 4th principal part of either of these verbs.  
**VICTUS** or **VICTUS**  
B2: Now give the third principal part for both verbs.  
**VĪCĪ** and **VĪXĪ** (RESPECTIVELY)
17. A set of what objects, fashioned on Crete by an Athenian inventor to help in an escape attempt, fell apart under the heat of the sun as Icarus got too close, melting the wax that held the feathers together?  
**WINGS**  
B1: Who was that Athenian inventor who had also helped with creating the Labyrinth?  
**DAEDALUS**  
B2: The Minotaur Daedalus trapped in the Labyrinth was the son of what queen of Crete?  
**PASIPHAË**
18. Give the case and use of the word for ‘queen’ in this sentence: “**Fīlius rēgīnae ambulat ad templum.**”  
**GENITIVE OF POSSESSION**  
B1: Now do the same for this sentence: “**Haec fēmina pulchra erat rēgīna bona.**”  
**PREDICATE NOMINATIVE**  
B2: Now do the same for this sentence: “**Rēgīna, discēde ā culinā.**”  
**VOCATIVE OF DIRECT ADDRESS**
19. In the early 1st century B.C., what native of Arpinum and victor over the Cimbri held a bloody seventh consulship during Rome’s first major civil war between him and Sulla?  
**(GAIUS) MARIUS**  
B1: Marius was the first member of his family to become consul. What was the Latin term for such a person?  
**NOVUS (HOMŌ)**  
B2: Marius and Sulla had previously collaborated to defeat what Numidian chieftain and serial briber of Roman officials?  
**JUGURTHA**

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

20. Give the Latin and English for the abbreviation **i.e.**  
**ID EST – THAT IS**  
B1: Now give the Latin and English for the abbreviation **e.g.**  
**EXEMPLĪ GRĀTIA – FOR EXAMPLE**  
B2: Finally, try this one. Give the Latin and English of the abbreviation **et al.**  
**ET ALII – AND OTHERS**

## Novice — Preliminary Round Two

1. Countless suitors were beheaded in the pursuit of what daughter of Schoeneus, who finally acquiesced to Hippomenes or Melanion when she couldn't manage to beat him in a footrace?

ATALANTA

B1: What sort of objects did Hippomenes use to defeat Atalanta in the race with the help of Aphrodite?

(GOLDEN) APPLES

B2: Into what creature was Atalanta eventually transformed?

LION

2. What emperor, who in 330 A.D. founded a new capital for the Eastern Roman Empire on the site of Byzantium, was the first Roman ruler to convert to Christianity?

CONSTANTINE (I // THE GREAT)

B1: What is the modern name of Constantinople, the new capital he founded?

ISTANBUL

B2: In what century did Constantinople finally fall to the Turks, well after the fall of the Western Roman Empire?

15TH CENTURY (A.D.)

3. Which of the following body parts is located closest to your **manus: dēns, pēs, digitus, cerebrum**?

**DIGITUS**

B1: Define any two of the other three words — **dēns, pēs, and cerebrum**.

ANY TWO OF: TOOTH, FOOT, BRAIN

B2: Which of the following body parts is usually the smallest: **caput, tergum, pollex, pulmō**?

**POLLEX**

4. What type of event, which by its etymology means “coming together” and derives from **veniō**, has state-level occurrences throughout the school year and a national event the last week of July?

CONVENTION

B1: What verb, which also derives from **venīre**, literally means ‘to come between’?

INTERVENE

B2: What noun, which also derives from **venīre**, literally means ‘the thing coming back’ and describes a company’s total amount of earnings before expenses?

REVENUE

5. The Laestrygonians and Lotus-Eaters, as well as Calypso and Circe, all threatened what man’s journey to return to his wife Penelope and his homeland of Ithaca 20 years after the Trojan War?

ODYSSEUS

B1: Odysseus also faced off against Polyphemus, using what name to fool the monstrous Cyclops?

OUTIS / NOBODY / NO-ONE

B2: Name either Circe’s island or Calypso’s island.

AEAEA or OGYGIA

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

6. Of the nouns **scrība**, **poēta**, **statua**, and **agricola**, which does NOT belong because of gender, since it does not refer to a traditionally male occupation?

**STATUA**

B1: Give the form of **bonus** that agrees with **poētā**.

**BONUM**

B2: Now give the adverb from **bonus** that means “well.”

**BENE**

7. Instead of the standard dictatorial rule of six months, what man governed for only 16 days around 458 B.C. before he returned to his wife, his farm, and his plow?

(L. QUINCTIUS) CINCINNATUS

B1: What tribe did Cincinnatus defeat at Mount Algidus, saving the army of Minucius Esquilinus?

AEQUI(COLAE)

B2: Cincinnatus made the defeated Aequi pass under what object composed of three spears, much like the Samnites forced the Romans to do at Caudine Forks a century later?

YOKE / **IUGUM**

8. Fed milk from the goat Amaltheia in a cave on Crete, what god was switched out with a stone wrapped in swaddling-clothes so that Cronus would not eat him and he could avenge his siblings?

**ZEUS**

B1: What mother of Zeus and wife of Cronus planned this switch?

**RHEA**

B2: How did the Curetes prevent Cronus from hearing baby Zeus crying?

CLASHED THEIR {SWORDS AND SHIELDS // WEAPONS} TOGETHER  
[ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

9. Translate into English: “**Mittō epistulam matrī meae.**” Keep in mind that an **epistula** is a letter.

I {SEND // AM SENDING} A LETTER TO MY MOTHER

B1: Now translate into English: “**Mittō multās epistulās magnō cum amōre.**”

I {SEND // AM SENDING} MANY LETTERS WITH {GREAT / MUCH} LOVE

B2: Translate into English: “**Mīsī epistulam sorōrī meae.**”

I (HAVE) SENT A LETTER TO MY SISTER

10. What man antagonized Rome with his siege of Saguntum, then defeated the consuls Varro and Paullus in 216 B.C. at Cannae, cementing his reputation as Rome’s greatest enemy and Carthage’s best general?

**HANNIBAL**

B1: Varro had rejected what dictator’s advice to use delaying tactics against Hannibal?

(QUINTUS) **FABIUS MAXIMUS (VERRUCOSUS CUNCTATOR)**

B2: In what modern-day country was Saguntum located?

**SPAIN**

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

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

**Puerī in viā lūdunt sine cūrā et saxa iaciunt. Parentēs puerōrum nōn adsunt. Senex puerōs videt et eīs dīcit: “In magnō perīculō estis!”**

The question: **Ubi lūdunt puerī?**

**IN VIĀ**

B1: **Suntne parentēs puerōrum in viā?**

**NŌN (SUNT / ADSUNT) / MINIMĒ / ABSUNT**

B2: **Quāle perīculum est?**

**MAGNUM**

12. What body of water, which Horatius Cocles used to swim to safety and near which Faustulus found Romulus and Remus, ran through the middle of the city of Rome?

**TIBER RIVER**

B1: Which king of Rome added the Janiculum — a hill beyond the Tiber — to the city and founded the port of Ostia at the mouth of the Tiber?

**ANCUS MARCIUS**

B2: What was the Latin name of the bridge that Cocles defended before jumping into the Tiber?

**PŌNS SUBLICIUS**

13. What tense are the Latin verb forms **audīminī**, **audīre**, **audītis**, and **audiō**?

**PRESENT**

B1: Which of those four present tense verbs is the present infinitive?

**AUDĪRE**

B2: **Audīminī** is a passive form. Give any other present passive indicative form of **audiō**.

**AUDIOR / AUDĪRIS / AUDĪTUR / AUDĪMUR / AUDIUNTUR**

14. What mortal sister of the immortal Euryale and Stheno was defeated with the help of a highly reflective shield, though her snake-haired head retained the ability to turn onlookers into stone?

**MEDUSA**

B1: A later version of Medusa’s story claims that she was originally a beautiful maiden and priestess of what goddess, who transformed her out of anger that she had slept with Poseidon?

**ATHENA**

B2: After Perseus killed Medusa, he visited the court of what king, rescuing the princess Andromeda?

**CEPHEUS**

15. What meaning is shared by the Latin nouns **ardor**, **ignis**, and **flamma**?

**FIRE / FLAME / HEAT**

B1: The Latin noun **ardor** can also metaphorically have what meaning, just like **cupiditās** does?

**DESIRE / EAGERNESS**

B2: A common Latin phrase indicating “scorched earth” tactics includes **ignis** and what noun for “iron”?

**FERRUM**

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

16. Say in Latin: “I was calling Marcus’s daughter.”

**FĪLIAM MĀRCĪ VOCĀBAM**

B1: Now say in Latin: “We will tell a story to Julia’s sons.”

**FĀBULAM FĪLIIS IŪLIAE NARRĀBIMUS**

B2: Now say in Latin, using **terreō**: “We are scaring the boys with the stories!”

**FĀBULIS PUEROS TERRĒMUS**

17. Who lost his wife Creusa even as he led his son Ascanius and carried his father Anchises through the fires of Troy on his way to eventually reach Italy and lay the foundations for Rome?

AENEAS

B1: Who was Aeneas’s mother?

VENUS / APHRODITE

B2: Whom did Aeneas eventually marry in Italy?

LAVINIA

18. Consisting of between 3,000 and 6,000 men and divided into ten cohorts, what military unit was the basic organizing principle of the Roman army?

LEGION(S) / **LEGIŌ(NĒS)**

B1: Every legion would have an **aquilifer** whose job was to carry a standard for the legion. What did this standard look like?

EAGLE

B2: What organizational unit within the Roman army was one third of a cohort?

MANIPLE(S) / **MANIPULUS** / **MANIPULŪ**

19. What Latin word — which begins the motto of Johns Hopkins as “[blank] **vōs liberābit**” — is the only one in the motto of Harvard University?

**VĒRITĀS**

B1: Give the three-word motto of Yale University, which also contains the word **vĕritās**.

**LŪX ET VĒRITĀS**

B2: What state university has “**artēs, scientia, vĕritās**,” meaning “arts, knowledge, truth”?

(UNIVERSITY OF) MICHIGAN // UMICH

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

20. What emperor was stabbed in the groin by Stephanus after a reign which saw him demand to be called **dominus et deus** and act very differently from his brother Titus and father Vespasian?

(TITUS FLAVIUS) DOMITIAN(US)

B1: What term refers to the dynasty of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian?

FLAVIAN (DYNASTY)

B2: Domitian assumed what position for life, which in the republic was held for 1.5 years every 5 years and had the power to revise the list of senators?

CENSOR(SHIP)



## Novice — Preliminary Round Three

1. Given that they are singular, what case must the noun forms **manūs**, **arboris**, and **imperii** all be?  
GENITIVE  
B1: Make **arboris** genitive plural.  
ARBORUM  
B2: Some third-declension nouns, such as **civis**, have the ending **-ium** rather than **-um** in the genitive plural. What is the conventional term for such nouns?  
(THIRD DECLENSION) {I-STEM (NOUNS) // I-STEMS}
2. Known by epithets like “Parthenos” and “gray-eyed,” what deity was born when Metis was swallowed by Zeus, leaping fully-armed from Zeus’s head and becoming the goddess of war and wisdom?  
ATHENA  
B1: With what deity did Athena compete for the patronage of Athens?  
POSEIDON  
B2: What common alternate name for Athena is said to have derived from either a childhood companion of hers or a giant that she slew and skinned?  
PALLAS
3. What man added Egypt to the Roman Empire a year after he and Agrippa won a 31 B.C. naval victory at Actium to officially end the Republic and make him Rome’s first emperor?  
(GAIUS JULIUS CAESAR) {OCTAVIAN(US) / AUGUSTUS} // (GAIUS) OCTAVIUS (THURINUS)  
B1: What couple was defeated at the Battle of Actium?  
(MARC) ANTONY and CLEOPATRA  
B2: What battle in 9 A.D. was the most disastrous defeat of Augustus’s reign, since it saw the German chieftain Arminius destroy three Roman legions?  
(BATTLE OF) TEUTOBURG FOREST
4. Say in Latin: “Peace comes after the war.”  
PAX POST BELLUM VENIT  
B1: Now say in Latin: “The girls run behind the house.”  
PUELLAE POST {DOMUM / VILLAM / CASAM} CURRUNT  
B2: Now say in Latin: “I am reading a book about the leader.”  
LIBRUM DE DUCE LEGO
5. What function was performed in Rome by **haruspices** or **augures**, who respectively looked at the entrails of animals and the flight of birds?  
DIVINATION [ACCEPT EQUIVALENT DESCRIPTIONS]  
B1: The **haruspices** came from what Italian people, who also gave Rome the names of some of their gods and, according to legend, their last few kings?  
ETRUSCANS  
B2: The **augures** were involved in the most ancient form of what wedding ceremony in Rome, named after its characteristic spelt cake? Give the Latin name.  
CONFARREATIO

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

6. Give the form of the verb **aperiō** necessary to translate this sentence: “He was opening a door.” In other words, give the third person singular, imperfect active indicative.  
**APERIĒBAT**  
B1: Now give the form of **aperiō** needed to say “He will open a door.”  
**APERIET**  
B2: Now, give the form of **aperiō** needed to say “He has opened a door.”  
**APERUIT**
7. What artist from Cyprus, who hated all mortal women, was blessed by Aphrodite when a beautiful statue he had created was brought to life to be his bride?  
**PYGMALION**  
B1: Another Pygmalion in mythology was the brother of what queen of Tyre, who fled with her sister Anna and founded a new city in northwest Africa?  
**DIDO**  
B2: This Pygmalion had killed what husband of Dido out of greed?  
**SYCHAEUS**
8. Which of the following animal species is not exclusively herbivorous: **asinus, ursus, equus, ovis**?  
**URSUS**  
B1: Define any three of those animals.  
ANY THREE OF: **ASINUS** – DONKEY; **URSUS** – BEAR; **EQUUS** – HORSE; **OVIS** – SHEEP  
B2: Now define **bōs**.  
**COW**
9. What two men held the tribuneship a decade apart in the late second-century B.C., where their efforts to introduce land reform legislation got them both killed, much to the grief of their shared mother?  
(THE) GRACCHI // TIBERIUS GRACCHUS and GAIUS GRACCHUS  
B1: Name that mother, who supposedly called them her “jewels.”  
**CORNELIA**  
B2: Name either the man most responsible for Tiberius’ death or the one most responsible for Gaius’.  
SCIPIO NASICA (SERAPIO) [TIBERIUS] or (LUCIUS) OPIMIUS [GAIUS]
10. Of the English words “confection,” “efficient,” “affinity,” and “façade,” which does not belong because it derives not from **faciō**, but from **finis**?  
**AFFINITY**  
B1: What derivative of **faciō** means “a shortcoming, imperfection, or lack”?  
**DEFECT / DEFICIENCY**  
B2: What derivative of **finis** means “remove impurities from a substance” or “improve something by making small changes”?  
**REFINE**

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

11. Where might you see Cocytus and Phlegethon, Ixion and Sisyphus, Charon and Cerberus, and the realm of Tartarus near the palace of Hades?  
 UNDERWORLD [ACCEPT “HADES” BEFORE THE LAST WORD]  
 B1: Which river in the underworld was the river of forgetfulness?  
 LETHE  
 B2: What woman was sent to the Underworld as part of a set of tasks assigned to her by Venus before she could marry Cupid?  
 PSYCHE
12. What man is credited by historians with Latin quotations like “**ālea iacta est**,” “**et tū Brūte**,” and “**vēnī, vīdī, vīcī**”?  
 (GAIUS JULIUS) CAESAR  
 B1: What two-word Latin phrase attributed to the emperor Augustus means “make haste slowly”?  
 FESTINĀ LENTĒ  
 B2: The emperor Constantine is reported to have seen a Greek phrase in the sky before the battle of the Milvian Bridge. Give the four-word Latin phrase that is its most common translation.  
 IN HŌC SIGNŌ VINCĒS
13. Which of the following should a person living in Pompeii NOT try to do in 79 A.D.: **fugere, manēre, discēdere, currere**?  
 MANĒRE  
 B1: Which of the following nouns best describes the experience of living in Pompeii in 79 A.D.: **perīculum, locus, cōnsilium, libertās**?  
 PERĪCULUM  
 B2: Which of the following adjectives best describes someone living in Pompeii in 79 A.D.: **antiquus, fortūnātus, bonus, timidus**?  
 TIMIDUS
14. What man, whose name means “Swollen foot,” murdered Laius and married Jocasta around the time he defeated the Sphinx, unwittingly fulfilling the prophecy that he would marry his mother?  
 OEDIPUS  
 B1: What was the answer to the Sphinx’s riddle?  
 (HU)MAN  
 B2: What daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta served as his guide in his blindness and titles a tragedy by Sophocles?  
 ANTIGONE
15. Despite instruction by the philosopher Seneca, what emperor never modulated his anger, since he supposedly ordered the murder of his mother Agrippina the Younger and fiddled while Rome burned?  
 NERO  
 B1: Nero also ordered the murder of what imperial rival, the son of Claudius and Messalina?  
 (TIBERIUS CLAUDIUS CAESAR) BRITANNICUS  
 B2: When Rome burned, Nero built what complex, whose name translates as the “golden house”?  
 DOMUS AUREA

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

16. Translate into English: “**Marcus et aquam et vīnum bibit.**”  
MARCUS DRINKS BOTH WATER AND WINE  
B1: Now translate into English: “**Aut pecūniam habēbis aut glōriam.**”  
YOU WILL HAVE EITHER MONEY OR GLORY  
B2: Now translate into English: “**Hostēs nec pontem nec urbem capere possunt.**”  
THE ENEMIES CAN SEIZE NEITHER THE BRIDGE NOR THE CITY
17. What enemy’s defeat led an Italian city’s name to change from Maleventum to Beneventum, though his wins at Heraclea and Asculum had set the stage by being so costly that he could no longer fight on?  
PYRRHUS (OF EPIRUS)  
B1: What Italian city originally hired Pyrrhus to fight the Romans?  
TARENTUM / TARANTO  
B2: Name either Pyrrhus’ ambassador, who determined that the Roman Senate was “an assembly of kings,” or the honorable Roman who refused bribes when negotiating a peace with Pyrrhus.  
CINEAS or (GAIUS) FABRICIUS (LUSCINUS)
18. What modern-day country contains the ancient rivers of Metaurus and Rubicon, as well as the Apennine Mountains and the cities of Brundisium and Pompeii?  
ITALY  
B1: What is the modern name of Brundisium?  
BRINDISI  
B2: What mountain in present-day Italy lay next to the city of Messana on Sicily?  
(MOUNT A)ETNA
19. What old king, whose children included Deiphobus and Cassandra, married Hecuba and watched in despair as his son Hector was dragged around the walls of his city of Troy?  
PRIAM  
B1: Name either Hector’s wife or son.  
ANDROMACHE or {ASTYANAX / SCAMANDRIUS}  
B2: What god gave Cassandra a great gift while in love with her, then a great curse when she rejected him?  
APOLLO

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

20. When recognized by the moderator, please perform the following commands: “**Pōne ūnam manum in capite.**”  
STUDENT SHOULD PLACE ONE HAND ON THEIR HEAD  
B1: Please perform the following commands: “**Dīcite ‘valēte’ aliīs discipūlis et surgite.**”  
STUDENTS SHOULD SAY GOODBYE TO THE OTHER {STUDENTS / PLAYERS} AND STAND UP  
B2: Please perform the following commands: “**Omnēs, plaudite et agite grātiās moderātōrī.**”  
ALL STUDENTS SHOULD CLAP AND THANK THE MODERATOR

## Novice — Semifinals

1. What emperor appointed Macro as praetorian prefect, who may have smothered him with a pillow while he attempted to return from Capri in 37 A.D., allowing rule to pass to Caligula?

TIBERIUS

B1: Who was the mother of Tiberius, whom Augustus married after humiliatingly divorcing Scribonia?

LIVIA

B2: Tiberius's previous praetorian prefect, Sejanus, had been brought down thanks to a letter sent to Tiberius by what woman?

ANTONIA (MINOR)

2. Say in Latin using a perfect tense verb: "The senators built a temple." Keep in mind that the verb for "build" is **aedificāre**.

**SENĀTŌRĒS TEMPLUM AEDIFICĀVĒRUNT**

B1: Now say in Latin, also using a perfect tense verb: "Caesar led the soldiers into battle."

**CAESAR MĪLITĒS IN {PROELIUM / BELLUM} DŪXIT**

B2: Now say in Latin, also using a perfect tense verb: "We wrote songs for nine hours."

**CARMINA NOVEN HŌRĀS SCRĪPSIMUS**

3. What daughter of Coeus and Phoebe was turned away by all of the lands due to their fear of Hera until she came to the barren island of Delos and birthed Apollo and Artemis?

LETO [ACCEPT "LATONA" BEFORE "HERA"]

B1: What other god was a product of Zeus's affair with Maia?

HERMES

B2: After birthing the twin deities, Leto came to the land of Lycia to drink water, but was turned away by the peasantry there. What semiaquatic leaping animals were these people turned into?

FROGS

4. Differentiate in meaning between the adverbs **paene** and **saepe**.

{NEARLY / ALMOST} and OFTEN (RESPECTIVELY)

B1: Differentiate in meaning between **deinde** and **dēnique**.

{THEN / AFTERWARD} and FINALLY (RESPECTIVELY)

B2: Finally, differentiate in meaning between **cotīdiē** and **postrīdiē**.

{DAILY / EVERY DAY} and (ON) THE NEXT DAY (RESPECTIVELY)

5. Of the abbreviations "**b.i.d.**," "**p.o.**," "**M.D.**," and "**a.c.**," which is not one that a pharmacist would write as an instruction on a prescription, because it is a degree attained by doctors?

**M.D.**

B1: When would one take a prescription marked "**h.s.**," or "**hōrā somnī**?"

AT THE HOUR OF SLEEP // AT BEDTIME

B2: Where would one take a prescription marked "**o.d.**?"

(IN THE) RIGHT EYE

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

6. Originally colored white, what fruit tree stood at the tomb of Ninus and was stained red in the middle of the night when a misunderstanding led to the suicide of the Babylonian lovers Pyramus and Thisbe?  
MULBERRY (TREE)  
B1: The misunderstanding originally came up because Thisbe had run away from what sort of animal?  
LION(ESS)  
B2: This mythological story served as the inspiration for what tragedy from the 16th century?  
ROMEO AND JULIET
7. Language math! Take the number of Latin declensions; multiply this by the number of tenses in a Latin verb; now subtract the number of voices in a Latin verb. What do you get?  
28 [(5\*6) - 2]  
B1: The Latin word for “declension” is **dēclīnātiō, dēclīnātiōnis**, feminine. Say in Latin, in the nominative singular: “The fifth declension.”  
QUINTA DĒCLĪNATIŌ  
B2: Now answer the following math problem in standard Latin: “**Quattuor et vīgintī ovēs sunt in agrō. Sex ovēs discēdunt. Nunc quot ovēs sunt in agrō?**”  
DUODĒVĪGINTĪ
8. What third-declension neuter Latin noun, whose root gives us English words such as “benign,” “ingenious,” and “generous,” literally means “kind” or “type”?  
GENUS  
B1: What other derivative of **genus** is often used to describe subtypes of cinema and literature?  
GENRE  
B2: What other derivative of **genus** could be translated into Latin as ‘**vērus**’?  
GENUINE
9. What sort of geographical feature gave its name to one battle interrupted by an earthquake and another featuring the Dioscuri — a victory at Regillus and a disastrous defeat at Trasimene?  
LAKE(S)  
B1: One bonus on each, then. Forces of what people lost to the Romans at Lake Regillus?  
LATIN(S) // LATIN LEAGUE  
B2: What Roman commander lost the battle of Lake Trasimene?  
(GAIUS) FLAMINIUS
10. Translate this sentence inspired by Vergil’s *Aeneid*: “**Nōlīte huic equō crēdere!**”  
DON’T TRUST THIS HORSE!  
B1: Now translate this sentence inspired by Vergil’s *Aeneid*: “**Timeō Graecōs etiam sī dōna ferunt.**”  
I FEAR (THE) GREEKS EVEN IF THEY {BRING // ARE BRINGING} GIFTS  
B2: Now translate this sentence inspired by Vergil’s *Aeneid*: “**Pulcherrima rēgīna lēgēs dabat hominibus.**”  
THE {MOST / VERY} BEAUTIFUL QUEEN WAS GIVING LAWS TO (THE) {MEN / PEOPLE}

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

11. What “**optimus prīnceps**” depicted his sack of Sarmizegethusa and the rest of his Dacian campaign on a huge column at Rome—a fitting monument for the man who brought the empire to its greatest extent?  
TRAJAN // (MARCUS ULPIUS) TRAIANUS  
B1: Trajan was not the only of the Five Good Emperors to undertake monumental construction projects. Which two of the others ordered the construction of walls across Britain?  
HADRIAN and ANTONINUS (PIUS)  
B2: To take Dacia, Trajan required Apollodorus of Damascus to build a bridge across what major river?  
DANUBE / DANUVIUS (RIVER)
12. After completing his tasks for Iobates, what hero arrogantly tried to fly to Olympus with the same companion that had helped him defeat the fire-breathing Chimaera?  
BELLEROPHON(TES)  
B1: To initially get Pegasus, Athena gave Bellerophon what object in a dream?  
(GOLDEN) BRIDLE  
B2: Bellerophon had to perform tasks for Iobates because of what daughter of Iobates, who had accused Bellerophon of trying to rape her?  
STHENEBOEA / ANTEIA
13. Of the following pairs of nouns, which pair is not made up of antonyms: **rēx** and **servus**; **cibus** and **cēna**; **amīcus** and **hostis**; **terra** and **mare**?  
CIBUS and CĒNA  
B1: Give the English for the words **uxor** and **marītus**, which have largely antonymic meanings.  
WIFE and HUSBAND  
B2: Give the English for the words **mors** and **vīta**, which definitely have antonymic meanings.  
DEATH and LIFE
14. Which of the following cities was not found in the province of Britannia: Aquae Sulis, Londinium, Eburacum, Lutetia?  
LUTETIA  
B1: Which of the following cities was found in the province of Gallia, or modern-day France: Lugdunum, Carrhae, Vindobona, Philadelphia?  
LUGDUNUM  
B2: Through the development of French, the Latin word **aquae** morphed: what word did it typically become in the name of French cities, as in [blank]-en-Provence or [blank]-la-Chapelle?  
AIX
15. The story of the boys and the old man continues. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I shall read twice, then answer in **English** the question that follows:  
**Senex dīcit: “Saxa vestra grāvia sunt. Sī ūnus ex vōbīs vulnerābitur, crās dīcētis: ‘Cūr sine cūrā lūsīmus?’ Via etiam perīculōsa est, nam multī equī cotīdiē per viam ad forum eunt.”**  
The question: What makes the rocks so dangerous?  
THEY ARE HEAVY  
B1: Answer in Latin: **Quandō equī per viam eunt?**  
COTĪDIĒ

B2: The passage continues: **Puerī trīstēs respondent: “Nōs et saxa et equōs cavēre possumus, sed, quia tū iubēs, abīmus.”** The question: What do the boys assert their ability to do?

WATCH OUT FOR BOTH ROCKS AND HORSES

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

16. What daughter of Agenor bore Minos after she was brought to Crete by Zeus, who had taken the form of a bull to kidnap her from Tyre?

EUROPA

B1: Crete and bulls go together very closely in myth. In the canonical numbering, which labor of Heracles involved capturing a bull in Crete?

SEVENTH (LABOR)

B2: Minos had two brothers, one of whom joined him as a judge of the Underworld. Name either of them.

RHADAMANTHYS / SARPEDON

17. What general took only three months of naval warfare to subdue pirates in the Mediterranean, though he was less successful at Pharsalus when he lost a civil war to his great rival, Julius Caesar?

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

B1: Both Pompey and Crassus participated in the crushing of the revolt of what ex-gladiator?

SPARTACUS

B2: In what year did the Battle of Pharsalus and Pompey's death take place, one year after his civil war with Caesar started?

48 B.C.

18. What man stood firm as six books were burned in front of him by the Sibyl, though it's unclear if they would have foreshadowed that Collatinus and Brutus would overthrow him in 509 B.C.?

(LUCIUS) TARQUINIUS SUPERBUS // TARQUIN THE PROUD

B1: What son of Tarquinius Superbus caused his father's downfall by his rape of Lucretia?

SEXTUS (TARQUIN(IUS))

B2: Sextus also betrayed what Italian city as part of a plan by Tarquinius to capture it?

GABII

19. Who boarded a chariot drawn by winged dragons to flee from Corinth after her husband left her for Creon's daughter Glauce and she committed the unthinkable murder of her two children?

MEDEA

B1: Medea was no stranger to family murders, having already killed what younger brother of hers during the escape from Colchis?

ABSYRTUS / APSYRTUS

B2: Apollonius's *Argonautica* has Absyrtus as a full-grown adult murdered by Jason; in this version, what aunt of Medea and daughter of Helios purified him after this murder?

CIRCE

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***



20. Identify and correct the grammatical error in the following sentence: “**Deī animum habent, sed corporem nōn habent.**”

**CORPOREM SHOULD BE CORPUS**

B1: Now identify and correct the grammatical error in the following sentence: “**Vīdistisne tuam fēlem in arbore?**”

**VĪDISTIS(NE) SHOULD BE VĪDISTĪ(NE) // TUAM SHOULD BE VESTRAM**

B2: Now identify and correct the grammatical error in the following sentence, changing only one word: “**Deīs quae irātae sunt multa dōna dare dēbeō.**”

**DEĪS SHOULD BE DEĀBUS**

## Novice — Finals

1. After defeating the people of Caenina, who consecrated the temple of Jupiter Feretrius to dedicate the armor of his slain opponent, Acron, as the first set of **spolia opīma**?  
ROMULUS  
B1: To what other version of Jupiter did Romulus consecrate a temple during his war against the Sabines after the god successfully turned the tables of battle?  
(JUPITER) STATOR  
B2: Legend says that Romulus disappeared in a storm near the swamp of Capra. What man claimed that Romulus appeared to him after death and then ascended to heaven?  
JULIUS PROCULUS [ACCEPT EITHER NAME ALONE]
2. Which of the following English body parts is derived from a Latin word for an animal: “pancreas,” “ankle,” “muscle,” “gullet”?  
MUSCLE  
B1: The English body part “cervix” is not directly derived from, but is related to, a Latin word for what animal?  
STAG / DEER  
B2: How many of the following English words are derived from Latin words for animals: “oval,” “antler,” “vaccinate,” “leprosy”?  
ONE [“VACCINATE”]
3. Forms such as **humī**, **Carthāginī**, **Athēnīs**, and **Rōmae** might exemplify not genitives or datives, but what seventh case that denotes place where?  
LOCATIVE (CASE)  
B1: How would you say in good Latin: “I walk to Rome”?  
RŌMAM AMBULŌ  
B2: Why would the word **Aegyptus** not use the locative case for “in Egypt”?  
LOCATIVE IS ONLY FOR INDIVIDUAL CITIES OR TOWNS
4. King Aegyptus lost his fifty sons at the hands of what group, who killed their new spouses in their wedding chambers and were punished in the Underworld with carrying water in leaky jars?  
DANAIDS  
B1: Who was the only member of the Danaids not to be punished since she didn’t kill her husband?  
HYPERM(N)ESTRA  
B2: In the *Aeneid*, the crime of the Danaids is depicted on the sword-belt of what son of Evander?  
PALLAS
5. Listen carefully to the following passage set many years after the other two, which I shall read twice, then answer in **Latin** the question that follows. Keep in mind that **vetāre** means “forbid”:  
**Iam illī puerī senēs sunt. Dum in hortō stant, aliās puellās in viā vident saxīs lūdere. Nōn vetant eās lūdere, sed dīcunt: “Vōbīscum lūdēmus, sed vōs venīte in hortum. Levia saxa habēmus.”**  
The question: **Quibuscum ludent senēs — id est, cum quibus hominibus?**  
(CUM) PUELLĪS

B1: **Quālibus saxīs senēs cum puellis ludent?**

**LEVIBUS**

B2: **Quid senēs puellās facere iubent?**

**VENIRE (IN HORTUM)**

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

6. What Latin adverb begins the mottoes of several divisions of the US Armed Forces — preceding **parātus** and **fidēlis** — and fills in the blank of Virginia’s motto, “**Sic** [blank] **tyrannīs**”?

**SEMPER**

B1: What Latin preposition begins two five-word proverbs, one roughly meaning “there’s no accounting for tastes” and one meaning “speak only good of the dead”?

**DĒ**

B2: Like Virginia’s motto, what four-word quotation meaning “Thus passes the glory of the world” also begins with **sic**?

**SIC TRĀNSIT GLŌRIA MUNDI**

7. Petillius Cerialis, Suetonius Paulinus, Aulus Plautius, and Julius Agricola were all governors of what province first conquered in 43 A.D. by Claudius?

**BRITAIN // BRITANNIA**

B1: Which of these governors led the invasion of Britain under emperor Claudius?

**(AULUS) PLAUTIUS**

B2: Name either the battle of 84 A.D. in which Agricola defeated the Caledonians, or the chieftain he defeated — a man to whom Tacitus attributes the words “they make a wasteland and call it peace.”

**(BATTLE OF) MONS GRAUPIUS or CALGACUS**

8. What god, imprisoned in a bronze jar by Otus and Ephialtes, wounded in battle by Diomedes, and trapped by Hephaestus in bed with Aphrodite, fails to live up to his reputation as a bloodthirsty warrior?

**ARES**

B1: What name refers collectively to Otus and Ephialtes and is derived from their stepfather?

**ALOADAЕ**

B2: Although Ares looks especially foolish for being trapped by the Aloadae, what other monster debilitated Zeus by stealing his sinews and also seems to have fathered several children by Echidna?

**TYPHON / TYPHAON / TYPHOEUS**

9. What is the meaning of the Latin noun **lectus**, which might be placed near a **mēnsa** in a **trīclīnium**?

**BED / COUCH**

B1: What is the meaning of the Latin noun **pretium**?

**PRICE**

B2: What is the meaning of the Latin noun **vestis**?

**CLOTHING / GARMENT**

10. What divine position, first held by Heracles’s divine wife Hebe, was taken up by a mortal brought to Olympus by whirlwind or eagle from his hometown of Troy — Ganymede?

**CUPBEARER (OF ZEUS)**

B1: Hebe was also the goddess of youth. What nephew of Heracles, who had helped him defeat the Hydra, did Hebe bless with rejuvenation?

IOLAUS

B2: Ganymede was actually a Trojan prince and the son of what Trojan king?

TROS or LAOMEDON

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

11. Translate into Latin using a form of **sum**: “The city has three walls.” Keep in mind that the word for “city” will be in the dative.

**URBĪ TRĒS MŪRĪ SUNT**

B1: Now say in Latin, using a compound of **sum**: “Will the soldiers be able to fight?”

**POTERUNTNE MĪLITĒS PUGNĀRE?**

B2: Now say in Latin, using a compound of **sum**: “He had been absent for one day.”

**{ŪNUM / ŪNAM} DIEM ĀFUERAT**

12. First requested by Terentilius Harsa but finally codified in 449 B.C. by a commission of **decemvirī**, what set of legislation was written out on tablets in the forum for all Romans to see?

(LAWS OF THE) TWELVE TABLES

B1: The Twelve Tables included a prohibition on what sort of action, which was made legal again by the **lĕx Canulĕia**?

INTERMARRIAGE BETWEEN PATRICIANS AND PLEBS

B2: What Roman kicked off reform by delivering a speech about cooperation between the “belly and the limbs,” which was taken to mean the patricians and plebeians?

MENENIUS AGRIPPA // AGRIPPA MENENIUS (LANATUS)

13. Answer the following question in Latin, after which there will be a clue. If I am the **avus** of the **soror** of your **filius**, what am I to you? The Latin word **avus** means ‘grandfather.’

**PATER / SOCER**

B1: You ask this riddle to your friend, whose Latin is much better than his puzzle-solving, and he responds “**Haereō**.” What is the meaning of this verb, which when prefixed with **ad** directly gives us an English derivative?

TO BE STUCK // TO {STICK / CLING / ADHERE} (TO)

B2: If your friend hears any more such riddles, he might scold you for trying to fry his brain. What first-conjugation Latin verb means “to scold”?

**VITUPERŌ**

14. Sisters transformed into guineafowl mourned the death of what young man, who killed his uncles over a boar’s pelt and was then killed by his mother Althaea, who burned the log attached to his life?

MELEAGER

B1: The log attached to Meleager’s life had been given to Althaea by the three Fates. Name them.

CLOTHO, LACHESIS, ATROPOS

B2: Name either of the uncles Meleager killed in Ovid’s version, or both for 5 additional tiger points.

TOXEUS or PLEXIPPUS

15. Which of the following adjectives could NOT agree with the noun form **virginis**: **miseræ**, **mīrābilis**, **tacītis**, **illius**?  
TACITIS  
B1: Which of the following adjectives, if any, could NOT agree with the noun form **nūbium**: **ātrārum**, **aliārum**, **parium**, **barbarum**?  
BARBARUM  
B2: Which of the following adjectives, if any, could NOT agree with the noun form **nautae**: **nūllī**, **dīvitī**, **pauperēs**, **celeris**?  
ALL CAN AGREE
- \*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***
16. Who watched as his co-consul had his **fascēs** broken and feces poured on him in 59 B.C. — the same year he married Calpurnia and gained command over Gaul for the next five years?  
(GAIUS) JULIUS CAESAR  
B1: Who was this poor co-consul whom Caesar forced into obscurity?  
(MARCUS CALPURNIUS) BIBULUS  
B2: Given that Romans in the Republic referred to any given year as “the consulship of [x] and [y],” what cheeky name was given to 59 B.C. by some comedic contemporary?  
THE CONSULSHIP OF JULIUS AND CAESAR
17. What crime caused an Arcadian king to be turned into a wolf by Jupiter, and a Lydian king, the father of Pelops, to be punished with eternal thirst and hunger in the Underworld?  
SERVING A HUMAN UP FOR FOOD (TO A GOD)  
B1: Lycaon’s crime not only brought upon his own doom but also what major event?  
(GREAT) FLOOD  
B2: What daughter of Tantalus also brought upon her own doom through her vanity?  
NIOBE
18. Who died in 192 A.D., thanks partly to Marcia and partly to his wrestling coach Narcissus, ending his gladiator-obsessed reign that tarnished the reputation of his father, Marcus Aurelius?  
COMMODUS  
B1: Commodus especially liked to associate himself with what mythological figure?  
HERACLES / HERCULES  
B2: In the following year, what man won the imperial throne by bribing each member of the Praetorian Guard with 25,000 sesterces?  
DIDIUS JULIANUS
19. Translate the following sentence from Latin into English: “**Filius māvult linguam Latīnam discere.**”  
Keep in mind that **māvult** is from **mālō**, meaning “to prefer.”  
THE SON PREFERS TO LEARN (THE) LATIN (LANGUAGE)  
B2: Now translate the following sentence: “**Pater iussit filium discere linguam Graecam.**”  
THE FATHER ORDERED HIS SON TO LEARN THE GREEK LANGUAGE  
B1: Now translate the following sentence: “**Filius dīcit sē nōlle legere carmina Graeca.**”  
THE SON SAYS (THAT) HE DOES NOT WANT TO READ GREEK POEMS

**\*\*SCORE CHECK\*\***

20. What activity, supported by the **russāta** and **albāta** groups, involved seven marble eggs used to mark movements around the **spīnae** and **mētae** in the middle of the Circus Maximus?  
CHARIOT RACING
- B1: What was the Latin term for hunting shows in which men were pitted against wild beasts, which were occasionally held in the Circus before the construction of the Colosseum?  
VĒNĀTIŌ(NĒS)
- B2: What was the name of the regular four-horse chariot seen in races?  
QUADRĪGA(E)