

2024 HARVARD CERTAMEN

NOVICE DIVISION

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ROUND ONE

Moderator should say: “I will now read one test question, so you can adjust to the actions of buzzing and conversing. This will not count for points, and will only happen in Round One.”

0. Blake Lopez helped produce what ancient play by Seneca in musical form, as he recently informed you at the opening assembly, allowing you to see the actions of a famous mythological woman on stage?
MEDEA
- B1: Name either the building where the opening assembly took place, or the building where you are currently playing this round.
EMERSON HALL or SEVER HALL
- B2: The opening assembly featured a wonderful talk by what professor?
EMILY GREENWOOD

Moderator should say: “Subsequent questions will count for points. Good luck and have fun!”

1. What meaning is shared by the words **beātus**, **fēlix**, and **laetus**?
HAPPY / GLAD / BLESSED
- B1: What is the meaning of the adjective **reliquus**?
REMAINING
- B2: What is the meaning of the adjective **dīves**?
RICH / WEALTHY
2. “He will live long if he never comes to know himself” is Tiresias’s prophecy describing what young man, who passed away leaning over a pool looking at the one person he loved — himself?
NARCISSUS
- B1: What nymph, who could only repeat what others said, loved Narcissus?
ECHO
- B2: After she was spurned, Echo prayed to what goddess of revenge to avenge her rejection?
NEMESIS
3. Translate the following sentence into Latin, using **narrō** for “tell”: “The sailors are telling a story.”
NAUTAE FĀBULAM NĀRRANT
- B1: Now, making sure you take into account the gender of the words, say in Latin: “The bad sailors were telling a bad story.”
MALĪ NAUTAE MALAM FĀBULAM NĀRRĀBANT
- B2: Now say in Latin: “The story is told.”
FĀBULA NĀRRĀTUR

4. What type of event, where Romans went to see **aurīgae** race seven times around a **spīna** before crossing a finish line of chalk, took place in a **circus**?

CHARIOT RACES // **LŪDĪ CIRCĒNSĒS**

B1: In a Roman **circus**, what was the term for the pillars around which the chariot drivers would turn?

MĒTA(E)

B2: Out of the six chariot racing **factiōnēs**, which two colors were the oldest?

RED AND WHITE // **RUSSĀTA AND ALBĀTA**

5. What emperor shouted “Varus, give me back my legions” after a disaster at Teutoburg Forest, perhaps because he had himself successfully conquered Egypt with Agrippa’s help and defeated Antony?

(GAIUS JULIUS CAESAR) AUGUSTUS // OCTAVIAN(US) // (GAIUS) OCTAVIUS

B1: Although Augustus gained power in 31 B.C., in what year did he assume the name Augustus, officially marking the start of the Empire in modern periodizations?

27 B.C.

B2: What German chieftain commanded the forces at Teutoburg Forest?

ARMINIUS // HERMAN (THE GERMAN)

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Which of the following does not belong based on meaning: **bellum, oppidum, proelium, pugna**?

OPPIDUM

B1: Which, if any, does not belong based on meaning: **villa, domus, portus, casa**?

PORTUS

B2: Which, if any, does not belong based on meaning: **aurum, ferrum, argentum, sepulcrum**?

SEPULCRUM

7. What Latin noun, in various forms, fills in the blank in the following phrases: “[blank] **agitat mōlem**”; “[blank] **agitat mōlem**”; “[blank] **sāna in corpore s̄nō**”?

MĒNS / MENTIS

B1: Juvenal, the author of the phrase “**mēns sāna in corpore s̄nō**,” also gives us what three-word satirical Latin phrase, which jokes that the Romans of his time cared only for food and spectacles?

PĀNEM ET CIRCĒNSĒS

B2: Translate Juvenal’s phrase “**quis cūstōdiet ipsōs cūstōdēs**?” into English.

WHO WILL GUARD THE GUARDS THEMSELVES? [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

8. Because Pelias had been told to beware a single-sandaled stranger, what man was sent on a quest to the Black Sea, where he met the sorceress Medea and retrieved the Golden Fleece?

JASON

B1: Who was Medea’s father, who gave Jason a series of impossible tasks to complete before he could retrieve the fleece?

AETES

B2: Upon Jason’s return to his hometown, Medea killed Pelias while claiming to do what for him?

RESTORE HIS YOUTH

9. Which king, the namesake of Rome's first senate house, or **Cūria**, had Mettius Fufetius torn in half and destroyed Alba Longa, a change from the peaceful ways of Numa Pompilius?
TULLUS HOSTILIUS
B1: Tullus Hostilius previously sent a set of Roman triplets named the **Horātii** to fight against what set of Alban triplets?
CŪRIĀTIĪ
B2: After annexing the surviving Albans, Tullus Hostilius settled them on which new hill of Rome, where Tullius also built his palace?
CAELIAN (HILL)
10. For the verb **capio**, give the second person plural, present active indicative form.
CAPITIS
B1: Make **capitis** imperfect.
CAPIĒBĀTIS
B2: Make **capiebātis** future.
CAPIĒTIS
- **SCORE CHECK****
11. What deity, who was so disgusted at the physical appearance of her son that she threw him off Olympus, was always jealous of her husband's lovers, an ironic situation for the goddess of marriage?
HERA
B1: What animal was sacred to Hera, and gained its distinctive appearance after the death of the hundred-eyed watchman Argus?
PEACOCK
B2: Argus was most known for watching over what woman, though she was not in a woman's form?
IO
12. Translate the following sentence into English: "**Librōs bonōs legere amō.**"
I LOVE TO READ GOOD BOOKS
B1: Now translate the following: "**Magister meus mihi librōs dabit.**"
MY TEACHER WILL GIVE ME BOOKS
B2: Now translate the following: "**Num omnēs librōs legere poteris?**"
SURELY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO READ {ALL THE BOOKS // EVERY BOOK} // YOU WON'T BE ABLE ... RIGHT?
13. After the Romans entered the Gulf of Tarentum, what man was called along with twenty elephants from Greece to aid the city, in a war where he won battles but lost too many troops to continue?
PYRRHUS (OF EPIRUS)
B1: Name either of the two battles, one taking place in 280 B.C. and the other in 279 B.C., where Pyrrhus won a tactical victory over the Romans but lost too great a number of troops?
ASCULUM or HERACLEA
B2: The Romans at one point considered surrendering to Pyrrhus. What aged senator convinced them not to do so with an impassioned speech against Pyrrhus' ambassador Cineas?
APPIUS CLAUDIUS (CAECUS)

14. Of the noun forms **lūdī**, **rēs**, **templī**, and **filiae**, which can NOT be plural, because it comes from a second-declension neuter noun ending in **-um**?

TEMPLĪ

B2: Which of the following noun forms, if any, can NOT be the same case as the others: **ducī**, **exercitūī**, **locō**, **filīā**?

FĪLIĀ

B1: Which of the following noun forms, if any, can NOT be the same case as the others? Note that some may be singular or plural, but we are only asking about case: **virtūtem**, **arma**, **agricolās**, **corpus**.

ALL CAN BE THE SAME CASE (ACCUSATIVE)

15. Eventually murdered by Aegisthus, the lover of his wife Clytemnestra, what king and brother of Menelaus was the main commander of the Greek army at Troy?

AGAMEMNON

B1: Agamemnon had abducted what Trojan princess, who foresaw her own death but went ignored?

CASSANDRA

B2: Agamemnon's children eventually gave Clytemnestra and Aegisthus their just deserts, as which son of Agamemnon killed the devious duo?

ORESTES

****SCORE CHECK****

16. What Latin verb, with what meaning, lies at the root of “vowel,” “voice,” and “vocal”?

{**VOCŌ** / **VOCĀRE**} = (TO / I) CALL

B1: What English adjective, a derivative of **vocō**, means “causing annoyance or anger”?

PROVOCATIVE

B2: What English adjective, a derivative of **vocō**, means “not able to be changed, reversed, or recovered”?

IRREVOCABLE

17. According to legend, who tossed his sword onto a set of scales and shouted “woe to the conquered” after leading a group of Senones in the Gallic sack of Rome around the year 390 B.C.?

BRENNUS

B1: Brennus was able to sack Rome after winning what important battle just north of the city?

(BATTLE OF THE) ALLIA (RIVER)

B2: The Senones came from modern-day France, but some of them migrated to Italy. When the Romans conquered this Gallic territory, they gave it what name indicating that it was on “this side” of the Alps?

CISALPINE (GAUL)

18. “Extent of space” is a use of what case, which in neuter nouns is always identical to the nominative and would be used after an active verb to show the direct object?

ACCUSATIVE (CASE)

B1: Give the case and use of **vir** in this sentence: “**Liberī a virō amantur.**”

ABLATIVE OF AGENT

B2: Now give the case and use of **vir** in the following sentence: “**Virō trēs liberī sunt.**”

DATIVE OF POSSESSION

19. After murdering his stepbrother Britannicus, what aspiring musician and teenage emperor went on to also murder his mother Agrippina and proverbially “fiddle” during the Great Fire of Rome?
NERO
- B1: Of course, the fiddle did not exist in ancient times. What instrument was Nero actually said to have played during the Great Fire?
LYRE / CITHARA
- B2: During Nero’s reign, what queen launched a rebellion in Britain?
BOUDICCA

****SCORE CHECK****

20. What mythological group, who lived either as Sicilian shepherds or in Mount Aetna as forgers of Zeus’s thunderbolts, included Polyphemus and notably had only one eye?
CYCLOPES
- B1: Tucked away in a cave in a Libyan mountain range, what pair or trio of sisters were discovered by Perseus and, in return for their communal eye, revealed the location of crucial weapons?
GRAEAE
- B2: Known mainly as avengers of fathers and mothers against their undutiful children, what group of sisters consisted of Tisiphone, Megaera, and Allecto?
FURIES / ERINYES

**2024 HARVARD CERTAMEN
NOVICE DIVISION
ROUND TWO**

1. What goddess learned the truth from Helios while wandering the world for nine days in grief, not realizing that Hades had been the one to abduct her missing daughter Persephone?
DEMETER
B1: According to the *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*, what action did Hades force Persephone to perform in order to make sure she had to spend at least a third of the year in the Underworld?
EAT A POMEGRANATE (SEED)
B2: At what city near Athens, where Demeter was received hospitably, did she establish a major mystery cult that continued to be celebrated even into the Roman period?
ELEUSIS
2. Translate the following sentence into Latin: “Listen, boy!”
AUDĪ, PUER!
B1: Now translate the following sentence: “Marcus, come to the farm!”
MĀRCE, VENĪ AD AGRUM!
B2: Now translate the following into Latin: “Buy both wine and bread in the forum!”
ET VĪNUM ET PĀNEM IN FORŌ {EME / EMITE}!
3. What kind of structure was built under both the fourth and third of the “Five Good Emperors” — Antoninus Pius and Hadrian — who both sought to stop the Caledonians from entering Britain?
WALL
B1: Which of those two emperors built the wall that was further north?
ANTONINUS PIUS
B2: What governor of Britain supervised the construction of Antoninus Pius’ wall in Britain?
(QUINTUS) LOLLIUS URBICUS
4. Consider this sequence: **hōra, diēs, mēnsis**, [blank]. What Latin noun continues this sequence of increasingly large divisions of time, since it comprises twelve **mēnsēs** and means “year”?
ANNUS
B1: Provide the missing Latin word in this sequence: **vēr, aestās**, [blank], **hiems**.
AUTUMNUS
B2: Now consider this mathematical sequence: **duo, quattuor**, [blank], **sēdecim, trīgintā duo**. After figuring out the rule for the sequence, provide the missing Latin word.
OCTO [EACH NUMBER IS DOUBLE THE PREVIOUS]
5. Which U.S. state has the Latin motto “**Ēnse petit placidam sub libertāte quiētem**” and is a home to a university with the one-word Latin motto “**Vēritās**”?
MASSACHUSETTS
B1: Translate the Latin motto of Maine — **dirigō**.
I {DIRECT // GUIDE (THE WAY)}
B2: Give either the Latin or the English for the motto of Connecticut.

QUĪ TRĀNSTULIT SUSTINET // HE WHO TRANSPLANTED (STILL) SUSTAINS

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What Roman king saw six books burned in front of him when he refused the price given by the Cumaean Sibyl, indicating the excessive pride that gave him the Latin nickname **Superbus**?
TARQUINIUS SUPERBUS // TARQUIN THE PROUD
B1: Tarquin was proud, but he accomplished some important things. Among his building projects was the completion of the **Cloāca Maxima**, which was what sort of structure?
SEWER
B2: Tarquin also leveled the top of what cliff, which was named after a woman who had let the Sabines in and was the place where traitors would be thrown to their death?
TARPEIAN ROCK
7. “They are all of one mind, their hearts are set upon song and their spirit is free from care” is how Hesiod describes what nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, who include Clio and Calliope?
MUSES / MOUSAI
B1: What was Mnemosyne the personification of?
MEMORY
B2: Name one of the mountains frequented by the Muses, excluding Olympus.
ANY OF: HELICON, PARNASSUS, {PIERUS // PIERIAN MOUNTAINS}
8. What direction would one mostly travel to go from Vindobona to Lutetia or from Graecia to Hispania?
WEST
B1: What is the modern name of the city of Olisipo, found in the far west of the Roman Empire?
LISBON
B2: What is the modern name of the city of Gades, also found in the far west of the Roman Empire?
CÁDIZ
9. What meaning is shared by the adverbs **igitur**, **ergō**, and **itaque**?
THEREFORE
B1: Differentiate in meaning between **statim** and **subitō**.
IMMEDIATELY / AT ONCE and SUDDENLY
B2: Differentiate in meaning between **saepe** and **semper**.
OFTEN and ALWAYS
10. What Latin adjective, directly reproduced in an English word for a “person reluctant to spend money,” literally means “pitiful” or “wretched,” meaning it lies at the root of words like “commiserate”?
MISER
B1: **Miser** can also mean “sick,” just like what other common third-declension Latin adjective?
AEGER
B2: The English word “lamentable” today means “unfortunate” or “unsatisfactory.” The Latin root verb **lāmentārī**, however, originally indicated that someone was doing what action?
WEEPING / GROANING / MOANING / (BE)WAILING [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

****SCORE CHECK****

11. What traveler from Troezen, famous for having cleared out various brigands, arrived at Athens only to find out that Minos was forcing his fellow citizens to be sacrificed to the Minotaur?
THESEUS
B1: The Minotaur was the son of a bull and what wife of Minos?
PASIPHAE
B2: Although his dad may be Aegeus or Poseidon, it's certain that what daughter of Pittheus was Theseus's mom?
AETHRA
12. People were led by a **dominus gregis** at what location, where others would wait in the **orchēstra** for them to get on the **scaena**, don masks, and perform stories?
THEATER / **THEĀTRUM**
B1: What important group of individuals would be seated in the **orchestra**?
SENATORS / **SENĀTŌRĒS**
B2: What major general of the Republic erected the first permanent theater in 55 B.C.?
POMPEY (THE GREAT)
13. What type of animal is described in the following Latin sentences? "**Hoc animal inveniēs in undīs aut in flūminibus. Vivit sub aquā et Latīnē appellātur 'piscis.'**"
FISH
B1: What animal is described here? "**Saepe mē in hominum casīs inveniēs, sed nōn sum canis. Mūrēs capiō et interficiō.**"
CAT
B2: Taking **imperātor** as "emperor," what person is described here? "**Haec rēgīna fuit fēmina duōrum Rōmānōrum ducum. Postquam prīmus imperātor Rōmānus eam proeliō vīcit, sē necāvīt.**"
CLEOPATRA
14. According to legend, what city was plowed over and had its fields salted after it fell in 146 B.C., with Scipio Aemilianus ensuring that it would never again challenge the might of Rome?
CARTHAGE
B1: A decade later, the Romans sent Scipio to besiege what Spanish city, which fell in 133 B.C.?
NUMANTIA
B2: What city also fell into Rome's hands in 133 B.C., because its king Attalus bequeathed it to Rome?
PERGAMUM
15. Eurycleia was the first to recognize what disguised son of Laertes upon his return to his home island of Ithaca, where a group of over a hundred rowdy suitors hoped in vain to marry Penelope?
ODYSSEUS
B1: Odysseus was not only a master of disguise, but also of seeing through disguise. Who was disguised as a girl at the court of Lycomedes until Odysseus saw through his tricks?
ACHILLES
B2: What couple, whom Jupiter and Mercury visited while disguised as poor wanderers, did not recognize their divine guests, but were rewarded for their hospitality?
BAUCIS and PHILEMON

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Translate the following sentence into English: “**Germānī interfēcērunt multās legiōnēs.**” Keep in mind that **interfēcērunt** is a perfect tense form.

(THE) GERMANS {KILLED // DESTROYED} MANY LEGIONS.

B1: Translate the following sentence into English: “**Hostium victōriae terrēbant Rōmānōs.**”

{(THE) ENEMIES’ VICTORIES // (THE) VICTORIES OF (THE) ENEMIES} {SCARED // FRIGHTENED // WERE SCARING} (THE) ROMANS.

B2: Translate the following sentence into English: “**Trīstēs Rōmānī numquam Germānōs vincent.**”

THE SAD ROMANS WILL NEVER DEFEAT THE GERMANS

17. What man, born a Dalmatian peasant but rising to emperor, uniquely shared power with Galerius in a new system of **Augustī** and **Caesarēs**, with four emperors forming a “tetrarchy”?

DIOCLETIAN

B1: During the tetrarchy, Diocletian issued an edict that announced maximums of what things?

PRICES

B2: Diocletian retired to what town in modern-day Croatia, where his palace still survives?

SALONA / SPLIT

18. What cruel king of Mycenae was so frightened by sights such as Cerberus and the Nemean Lion that he could not stand being there in person to assign Heracles his twelve Labors?

EURYSTHEUS

B1: What monster did Heracles capture after chasing it through the mountains into deep snow?

ERYMANTHIAN BOAR

B2: What monster did Heracles find at the very Western end of the Mediterranean, on an island called Erythia, accompanied by his two-headed dog and herdsman?

GERYON

19. Complete the following analogy: **dīcō** is to **dīxit** as **amō** is to [blank]. That is, make **amō** third person and perfect, meaning “she loved.”

AMĀVIT

B1: Make **amāvīt** 2nd person.

AMĀVISTĪ

B2: Make **amāvistī** pluperfect.

AMĀVERĀS

****SCORE CHECK****

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

Ōlim erat vir quī in īnsulā habitābat. Cotīdiē ad pistōrem veniēbat et pānem emēbat.

Tum ad agricolam veniēbat et cibum edēbat cum eō.

The question: **Ubi vīvēbat vir?**

IN ĪNSULĀ

B1: **Quōcum vir cibum edēbat?**

CUM AGRICOLĀ

B2: **Quālem cibum pistor vēndēbat?**

PĀNEM

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NOVICE DIVISION
ROUND THREE

1. What sort of person was lifted during the **susceptiō** by the **pater familiās**, which determined that they would not be exposed to die, though they still had to wait 8 or 9 days before getting a name?
BABY / CHILD
- B1: What is the name for the day when the baby was given their name?
DIĒS LUSTRICUS
- B2: What is the collective term for the ornaments strung together to be worn around the child's neck?
CREPUNDIA
2. In the *Odyssey*, who gives Odysseus a mysterious bag which, when opened, blows Odysseus's ship back and releases the winds that he normally controlled from his palace?
AEOLUS
- B1: In Book 1 of the *Aeneid*, what goddess, the implacable enemy of the Trojans, asks Aeolus to shipwreck Aeneas's fleet?
JUNO
- B2: What king of Corinth, one of the evildoers punished eternally in Tartarus, was a son of Aeolus, though not necessarily the same Aeolus?
SISYPHUS
3. According to etymology, what body part resembles the many yellow leaves of the flower that we know as "dandelion," which comes from a corruption of the Latin phrase **dēns leōnis**?
TOOTH / TEETH (OF A LION)
- B1: What body part's Latin name lies at the root of the English words "pioneer" and "pawn"?
FOOT (FROM PĒS)
- B2: What Latin word for a body part probably lies at the root of the English word "antler"?
OCULUS (MEANING "EYE")
4. What man used the power from a private fire brigade and property speculation to earn office, though his death at Carrhae marked the end of the First Triumvirate and the loss of Rome's "richest man"?
(MARCUS LICINIUS) CRASSUS (TRIUMVIR)
- B1: Crassus also gained prominence after subduing the revolt of what gladiator in 71 B.C., though much of the credit was stolen by Pompey?
SPARTACUS
- B2: Crassus got a second consulship after the First Triumvirate's conference at what city in 56 B.C.?
LUCA
5. Who was accompanied by Achates and protected by his mother Venus as he entered Carthage and first saw Dido, though his destiny was to continue to Italy and become the Romans' ancestor?
AENEAS
- B1&2: Aeneas left Troy with his father, his son, and his wife, though his wife did not survive the journey out of the city. Name any two of these figures, identifying which is which.

ANY TWO OF: FATHER – ANCHISES; SON – ASCANIUS / IULUS; WIFE – CREUSA

****SCORE CHECK****

6. Which of the following best describes a good **imperātor**: **lacrimō**, **timeō**, **dūcō**, **rideō**?
DŪCŌ
B1: What is the meaning of the verb **imperō**?
ORDER / COMMAND
B2: Give a synonym in Latin for **imperō**.
MANDŌ / IUBEŌ / PRAECIPIŌ
7. What part of speech, which sometimes has the suffix **-iter**, is exemplified by words such as **crās** and **ibi**, and expresses time, place, or manner by modifying a verb or adjective?
ADVERB
B1: What kinds of adjectives form adverbs by applying the suffix **-iter**, as opposed to **-ē**?
THIRD DECLENSION ADJECTIVES (EXCEPT ONES ENDING IN **-NS**)
B2: What Latin adverb means “in vain”?
FRŪSTRĀ
8. When recognized, perform the following commands: **Tange nāsū et fac sonōs porcī**.
PLAYER SHOULD TOUCH NOSE AND OINK
B1: Now perform the following commands: **Omnēs claudite oculōs et plaudite**.
ALL PLAYERS SHOULD CLOSE THEIR EYES AND CLAP
B2: Finally, perform the following command: **Omnēs salūtate spectātōrēs et Anglicē dīcite: “Nōs iuvāte in certāmine!”**.
ALL PLAYERS SHOULD GREET THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS AND SAY “HELP US IN {CERTAMEN // THE COMPETITION}”
9. What building, whose modern name comes from a nearby statue of Nero, was built starting in 72 A.D. under Vespasian, held over 50,000 attendees, and was the site of Imperial gladiatorial games?
COLOSSEUM // FLAVIAN AMPHITHEATER
B1: Vespasian became emperor in what year, which had seen the deaths of three other emperors?
69 A.D.
B2: What Jewish client queen became entangled in the politics of Vespasian’s rule when she carried on an extended affair with his son Titus?
BERENICE (OF CILICIA) // (JULIA) BERENICE
10. What man, forced alongside Antigone into exile from Thebes, correctly answered “Man” to the riddle of the Sphinx, but unwittingly committed incest with his mother Jocasta?
OEDIPUS
B1: The most famous telling of Oedipus’s story is in two tragedies by Sophocles: one sees him discover his incest and the other sees him die in an Athenian suburb. Name either of these plays.
OEDIPUS REX // OEDIPUS TYRANNUS // OEDIPUS THE KING or OEDIPUS AT COLONUS
B2: Antigone later met a tragic fate when she tried to perform what action, which was forbidden by Creon after the civil war between the brothers Eteocles and Polynices?
TRIED TO BURY {POLYNICES // A TRAITOR}

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Translate into English: “**Lūcī pāter deīs cibum dat.**”
LUCIUS’S FATHER GIVES FOOD TO THE GODS
B1: Now translate into English, taking **colō** as “worship”: “**Mārcus deōs nōn colit, quod Chrīstiānus est.**”
MARCUS DOES NOT WORSHIP THE GODS, BECAUSE HE IS A CHRISTIAN
B2: Translate the following sentence into English: “**Chrīstiānī multōs annōs sē cēlāvērunt.**”
THE CHRISTIANS HID THEMSELVES FOR MANY YEARS
12. What Latin adjective is an antonym of **āter**, a synonym of **candidus** as a color word, and means “white”?
ALBUS
B1: Give an antonym for the Latin adjective **audax**.
TIMIDUS / (PER)TERRITUS
B2: Give an antonym for the Latin adjective **vacuus**.
PLĒNUS
13. What emperor, whose father is known as “Chlorus,” defeated his rival Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge in 312 A.D., where a vision of a cross sparked a deathbed baptism and conversion to Christianity?
CONSTANTINE {I // THE GREAT}
B1: According to legend, Constantine knew he would win the battle of Milvian Bridge after he saw what words in the sky? You can give the Latin or the English.
IN HŌC SIGNŌ VINCĒS // IN THIS SIGN (YOU WILL) CONQUER
B2: Besides Maxentius, Constantine also defeated what other rival with victories at Adrianople and Chrysopolis, giving him full control over the Empire?
LICINIUS
14. What creature, born from the blood of the slain Gorgon Medusa, was tamed with a golden bridle so that Bellerophon could kill the Chimaera while flying through the air on its back?
PEGASUS
B1: The Chimaera was a hybrid of three animals. Name any two of them.
ANY TWO OF: LION, SNAKE, GOAT
B2: Pegasus threw Bellerophon off his back when the hero asked him to perform what action?
FLY HIM TO OLYMPUS
15. What Latin noun precedes the word “**vīvendī**” in a phrase meaning “way of living,” just as it starts a phrase meaning “way of operating” — “[blank] **operandī**”?
MODUS
B1: What two-word Latin phrase, which features a gerund that resembles **vīvendī** and **operandī**, refers to a “toastmaster” or the “judge of the drinking”?
{ARBITER / RĒX / MAGISTER} BIBENDĪ
B2: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase **onus probandī**, which is used in legal contexts?
BURDEN OF {PROOF / PROVING}

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Which emperor retired to Capri at the urging of the corrupt praetorian prefect Sejanus, where he almost continuously remained until his death in 37 A.D. allowed Caligula to take the throne?
TIBERIUS
B1: Which nephew of Tiberius, nicknamed for his successful German campaigns, served as Tiberius's heir until his murder in 19 A.D.?
GERMANICUS
B2: What man, Sejanus's successor, may have ordered that Tiberius be smothered in his sleep to free the throne for Caligula?
(NAEVIUS SUTORIUS) MACRO
17. Translate the following sentence into Latin, which will have an extra clue if needed: "We are wandering through the forests." Keep in mind that the verb for "to wander" is **errō, errāre**.
PER SILVĀS ERRĀMUS
B1: Now translate into Latin the following sentence, which Odysseus might have said while he was wandering: "I want to see my wife."
{CUPIŌ / VOLŌ} {UXŌREM / FĒMINAM} MEAM {VIDĒRE / CŌNSPICERE / SPECTĀRE}
B2: Now say in Latin: "After twenty years, Penelope does not believe the man." Remember that **crēdō** takes a case other than accusative.
POST VĪGINTĪ ANNŌS, PENELOPĒ VIRŌ NŌN CRĒDIT
18. What deity, who killed the mighty hunter Orion out of jealousy, was a daughter of Leto, protected women who wished to remain unmarried, and oversaw their hunting?
ARTEMIS [ACCEPT "DIANA" UNTIL "LETO"]
B1: Artemis was jealous because what goddess of the dawn loved Orion?
EOS
B2: What Theban prince and son of Autonoe did Artemis turn into a stag?
ACTAEON
19. Make the phrase "**ūnus lupus fortis**" accusative singular, keeping in mind that **fortis** uses 3rd-declension endings.
ŪNUM LUPUM FORTEM
B1: Give the correct form of **fortis** to modify the noun form **bellum**.
FORTE
B2: Now make **bellum forte** genitive plural, keeping in mind that **fortis** uses i-stem endings.
BELLŌRUM FORTIUM
- **SCORE CHECK****
20. What war, triggered by a dispute between the ruler of Syracuse and the Mamertines, saw Romans cross overseas for the first time to fight Hamilcar and other Carthaginians?
FIRST PUNIC (WAR)
B1: In 260 B.C., Romans used grappling hooks to win their first major naval battle at what site?
MYLAE
B2: What oath did the leading Carthaginian general of the First Punic War, Hamilcar Barca, famously force his son, Hannibal, to swear?
(AN OATH) TO ALWAYS HATE THE ROMANS

2024 HARVARD CERTAMEN
NOVICE DIVISION
SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. What event saw the murder of Althaea’s brothers after a group of heroes was assembled at Oeneus’s city under the leadership of Atalanta and Meleager to defeat a marauding animal?
CALYDONIAN BOAR HUNT
B1: Althaea in turn killed Meleager by throwing what object into the fire?
THE {LOG / BRAND / STICK} ATTACHED TO HIS LIFE
B2: This log had been given to Althaea by the three Fates. Name all three.
CLOTHO, LACHESIS, ATROPOS
2. What is the meaning of the Latin noun at the root of “disaster,” as well as the Latin noun at the root of “constellation”?
STAR
B1: The noun **sīdus**, which also means “star,” is at the root of what English verb that means “to strongly wish for or want”?
DESIRE
B2: At what time of day did the **vesper** star first appear, giving its name to a Christian prayer service?
EVENING / NIGHTFALL
3. What political office, never held in the 2nd century B.C., but revived by Sulla to institute proscriptions and held five times by Camillus, provided its holders with 24 lictors for their six months of power?
DICTATOR
B1: Although there were no dictators in the 2nd century B.C., what consul of 121 B.C. received a **Senātūs Cōnsultum Ultimum**, giving him the power to kill Gaius Gracchus?
(LUCIUS) OPIMIUS
B2: Sulla assumed his dictatorship after beating Papirius Carbo at what battle of 82 B.C.?
COLLINE GATE
4. What name in mythology is shared between a son of Tydeus who helped Odysseus steal the Palladium and a king of Thrace killed in Heracles’s eighth labor for owning man-eating mares?
DIOMEDES
B1: In Book 5 of the *Iliad*, Diomedes notably wounds what two deities?
ARES and APHRODITE
B2: In Book 6, Diomedes exchanges his bronze armor for what enemy’s gold armor after they realize that their ancestors were friends?
GLAUCUS
5. Translate the following sentence into English: “**Hī equī celeriorēs quam illī canēs sunt.**” Note that **celeriorēs** is a comparative adjective meaning “faster.”
THESE HORSES ARE FASTER THAN THOSE DOGS
B1: Now translate: “**Nonne miles fortissimus est dux optimus?**”
IS THE { BRAVEST / STRONGEST } SOLDIER NOT THE BEST {GENERAL / LEADER}?

// SURELY THE { BRAVEST / STRONGEST } SOLDIER IS THE BEST {GENERAL / LEADER}?
B2: Now make the form **celeriōrēs** superlative, keeping it nominative plural.

CELERRIMĪ

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What emperor quelled a revolt by Avidius Cassius, who had served under his co-emperor Lucius Verus, then passed power for the first time in decades to a biological son, the much worse ruler Commodus?
MARCUS AURELIUS
B1: Who was Aurelius' wife, who inspired Cassius to revolt? She is referred to as "the younger" of the two women to bear her name.
FAUSTINA (THE YOUNGER)
B2: In what year A.D. did Marcus Aurelius die, ending the period of the Five Good Emperors?
180 (A.D.)
7. Of the noun forms **libertās**, **potestās**, **athlētās**, and **cīvitās**, which does not belong, because it is not a nominative singular, but rather a first declension accusative plural?
ATHLĒTĀS
B1: Give the correct form of **auctōritās**, which declines like the other three nouns in the toss-up, to translate the following sentence: "The priestess was a woman of great authority."
AUCTŌRITĀTIS
B2: Give the case and use of **auctōritātis** in the previous sentence.
GENITIVE OF DESCRIPTION
8. While playing on the beaches of Sidon, what daughter of Agenor encountered a remarkably gentle bull and was carried through the sea to Crete, eventually giving her name to an entire continent?
EUROPA
B1: What woman was carried through or over the sea by a ram, but fell off and drowned, giving her name to the strait that divides Asia and Europe?
HELLE
B2: Sidon was one of the chief cities, along with Tyre, of what people?
PHOENICIANS
9. What three-letter Latin enclitic — that is, a syllable that can be added to the end of a word — is applied to the second of two words to be joined together and is the **Q** in **SPQR**?
-QUE
B1: Give both the five-letter word for "and" that ends in **-que** and its two-letter shortened form.
ATQUE and AC
B2: What two-letter Latin enclitic means "or" and is used equivalently to **-que**?
-VE
10. Listen carefully to the following passage, which I will read twice, then answer in **English** the question that follows.
Post prandium, vir dīves ad thermās aliquandō veniēbat, sed numquam ad amphitheātrum. Venit quoque ad fullōnem qui vestēs suās lavābat. Tandem, dēfessus erat et domum revēnit.

The question: How often did the man go to the amphitheater?

NEVER

B1: What did the **fullō** do for the man?

WASH HIS CLOTHES

B2: How did the man feel at the end of his day?

(VERY) TIRED

****SCORE CHECK****

11. Complete the following analogy: **doctus** is to **doceō** as **lātus** is to what verb meaning “to carry”?

FERŌ

B1: Now do this one: **ferō** is to **tulī** as **tollō** is to [blank].

SUSTULĪ

B2: Now do this one: **doctus** is to **doceō** as **pulsus** is to [blank].

PELLŌ

12. A stone forever wet with tears embodied what queen, who told the Thebans to worship her instead of Leto, and was punished by Apollo and Artemis through the death of her 14 children?

NIOBE

B1: Ovid tells the story of Niobe immediately after he describes the fate of what other hubristic woman, a daughter of Idmon from Colophon who had provoked Minerva?

ARACHNE

B2: Who was the husband of Niobe who was such a great musician that built the walls of Thebes with his music alongside his brother Zethus?

AMPHION

13. Using the Latin verb **valeō**, meaning “to be well,” say in Latin: “I order you to be well.”

IUBEŌ TĒ VALĒRE

B1: Give a one-word version of the sentence you just made.

VALĒ [**VALĒTE** is acceptable if player answered **VŌS** in the toss-up]

B2: Now say in Latin: “I think that Marcus is well,” which uses a similar structure to the sentence in the toss-up.

PUTŌ MARCUM VALĒRE

14. What emperor, after a good campaign in Scotland by Agricola, recalled him out of jealousy in 85 A.D., showing the complex that made him call himself **dominus et deus** and try to live up to his brother Titus?

DOMITIAN

B1: What was the Latin name of Scotland, taking the name of one tribe, though many inhabited it?

CALEDONIA

B2: Name any of: (a) the Caledonian chieftain Agricola defeated, (b) the mountain where that battle was fought, or (c) Agricola’s son-in-law, the historian who describes this battle and is our most reliable source for the Early Empire.

ANY OF: CALGACUS // (MONS / MOUNT) GRAUPIUS // TACITUS

15. What festival celebrated in a cave on February 15th on the Palatine Hill saw two youths run through the streets, striking everyone they met with goat skin to make them fertile?

LUPERCĀLIA

B1: The cave of the **Lupercālia** is thought to have been the site of what story from the Monarchy?

ROMULUS and REMUS BEING SUCKLED BY A (SHE-)WOLF

B2: Two days later, the Romans celebrated a festival honoring what deified form of Romulus?

QUIRINUS

****SCORE CHECK****

16. Differentiate in meaning between the 3rd principal parts **voluī** and **volāvī**, which respectively come from the irregular verb **volō** and the regular verb **volō**.

I WANTED and I FLEW (RESPECTIVELY)

B1: Differentiate in meaning between the 3rd principal parts **posuī** and **potuī**.

I PLACED and I WAS ABLE (RESPECTIVELY)

B2: Differentiate in meaning between the 3rd principal parts **cecidī** and **cecīdī**, given that the second one comes from a verb one letter longer.

TO FALL and TO CUT / KILL (RESPECTIVELY)

17. In modern times, a form of what Latin verb is partly abbreviated with an “x” in pharmaceutical contexts, as it is used on prescriptions to advise patients what they should “take”?

RECIPE / RECIPIŌ / RECIPERE / CAPIŌ / CAPERE

B1: What Latin abbreviation is used to tell patients what prescriptions to take four times a day?

Q.I.D.

B2: What Latin abbreviation is used to tell patients that a prescription should be administered in drops?

GTT.

18. Deluded into helping Heracles retrieve the Apples of the Hesperides in one story, what Titan is often seen carrying a large sphere in artistic depictions, since he was sentenced to hold up the sky?

ATLAS

B1: What god was the grandson of Atlas through his daughter Maia?

HERMES

B2: Maia was one of what group of seven sisters immortalized, just like the Hyades, as stars?

PLEIADES

19. Who watched in amazement as a youth proved his resolve by burning his right hand, and later watched as his attempt to capture Rome was thwarted by Horatius Cocles cutting the **Pōns Sublicius**?

LARS PORSENNA

B1: Who was the boy who burned his right hand, later adopting a nickname that emphasized his newfound left-handedness?

(GAIUS MUCIUS) SCAEVOLA

B2: What woman so impressed Porsenna with her bravery in leading a group of fellow hostages that he returned her to Rome after she was brought back to his camp?

CLOELIA

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Of the cities Drepanum, Messana, Mediolanum, and Syracuse, which stood in the middle of the Po Valley, rather than on the island of Sicily?

MEDIOLANUM

B1: What was the tallest mountain on the island of Sicily?

(MOUNT) ETNA

B2: What city's strategic position on the southern coast of Sicily meant it became an early point of contention for Rome and Carthage?

AGRIGENTUM / AGRIGENTO

**2024 HARVARD CERTAMEN
NOVICE DIVISION
FINAL ROUND**

1. In what century did these events occur: initial worship of **Sōl Invictus**; Philip the Arab's celebration of Rome's thousandth anniversary; the rule of the emperors Aurelian, Elagabalus, and Caracalla?
THIRD CENTURY A.D. // 200s A.D.
B1: The Roman emperor Aurelian defeated what woman, who had ruled an empire from Palmyra?
ZENOBIA
B2: What man, renowned for his height, began the period of "Barracks Emperors" when he assumed the throne in 235 A.D. by deposing Alexander Severus?
MAXIMINUS THRAX
2. Differentiate in meaning between the verbs **laedō** and **laudō**, the former of which is synonymous with **noceō** and would often result in a **vulnus**.
TO HURT / HARM and TO PRAISE
B1: Distinguish in meaning between **necō** and **negō**.
TO KILL and TO DENY
B2: Distinguish in meaning between **haereō** and **hauriō**.
TO STICK / ADHERE / CLING and TO DRAIN / DRINK / EMPTY
3. What woman initially refused the orders of Themis on Mount Parnassus until she learned that throwing the "bones of her great mother" meant throwing stones to repopulate humanity alongside Deucalion?
PYRRHA
B1: What two Titans were the fathers of Deucalion and Pyrrha? You need not give them in order.
PROMETHEUS and EPIMETHEUS
B2: According to Ovid, the Great Flood started after what wicked king of Arcadia tried to feed Zeus human flesh?
LYCAON
4. Explaining the use of the **abacus**, guiding students with their own hand to trace letters, and pronouncing words syllable by syllable were all the practices of what elementary school teacher?
LITTERĀTOR // MAGISTER LITTERĀRUM
B1: The study of the Greek language began with what sort of teacher?
GRAMMATICUS
B2: What equivalent of a college teacher would teach public speaking?
RHĒTOR
5. Various holders of what position spoke the phrases "**acta est fābula — plaudite**", "**quālis artifex pereō**", and "**vae! putō deus fīō**" as they approached death?
(ROMAN) EMPERORS
B1: "**Acta est fābula — plaudite**," or "the play is over, applaud" was not the emperor Augustus's only good line. Another of his quotations is "**festinā lente**." Translate that phrase.
{HURRY // MAKE HASTE} SLOWLY

B2: The emperor Tiberius enjoyed the phrase “**ōderint dum metuant.**” Fill in the blank in this translation of the phrase: “Let them [blank], provided that they fear.”

HATE

****SCORE CHECK****

6. What seer, who was saved by the sons of Boreas, advised a group of heroes on how to bypass the Symplegades since he was finally able to eat without the Harpies defiling his food?

PHINEUS

B1: What were the Symplegades?

A SET OF ROCKS THAT CRASHED TOGETHER AND CRUSHED ANYTHING TRYING TO PASS THROUGH [ACCEPT EQUIVALENTS]

B2: The sons of Boreas, Zetes and Calais, would have killed the Harpies if what deity had not stepped in to save them and promise that they will no longer bother Phineus?

IRIS

7. What chieftain was defeated by the combined efforts of a quaestor and consul — Sulla and Marius — in 105 B.C. after bribing several Roman commanders and seizing control of Numidia?

JUGURTHA

B1: Jugurtha was the grandson of what man, who built the kingdom of Numidia after the Second Punic War and was a prominent ally of the Romans?

MASINISSA

B2: Besides Marius and Sulla, the most successful Roman commander in the war against Jugurtha was what man, who gained the honorary title “Numidicus” for his successes in the region?

(QUINTUS) CAECILIUS METELLUS (NUMIDICUS)

8. *Note to players: There will be an extra clue after the sentence.* Translate into English: “**Rēge necātō, militēs laetī sunt.**” The clue: **rēge necātō** means the same as **postquam rēx necātus est.**

{WITH THE KING (HAVING BEEN) KILLED // AFTER THE KING WAS KILLED}, THE SOLDIERS ARE HAPPY

B1: Now translate this sentence from Latin into English: “**Tempestāte appropinquante, nōlēbāmus discēdere.**”

WITH THE STORM APPROACHING, WE DID NOT WANT TO {LEAVE / EXIT}

B2: Understanding that **condiciō** means “condition,” translate this sentence from Latin into English:

“**Pācis condiciōnibus acceptīs, civitās novās lēgēs scrībet.**”

{WITH THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE (HAVING BEEN) ACCEPTED // AFTER THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE {(WILL) HAVE BEEN // ARE} ACCEPTED}, THE STATE WILL WRITE NEW LAWS

9. What man hosted a notorious edition of Neptune’s festival, the Consualia, that sparked a war where he won the first **spolia opīma**, as he had ordered the abduction of the Sabine women to populate his city?

ROMULUS

B1: After he won the **spolia opīma**, Romulus dedicated them to what god with what epithet?

JUPITER FERETRIUS

B2: To win the **spolia opīma**, Romulus defeated what man in single combat?

ACRO(N OF CAENINA)

10. Keeping in mind that there is a Latin word that can mean both “finger” and “toe,” perform this command: **Iterum iterumque tange caput, deinde umerōs, deinde genua, deinde digitōs pedis.**
CONTESTANT SHOULD STAND AND TOUCH HIS HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES, AND TOES AGAIN
AND AGAIN

B1: Keeping in mind that the Latin word **tingo** literally means “dip” or “moisten,” perform the following command: **Stā et simul extende sinistrum brachium rēctē et simul extende dextrum brachium trāns faciem et simul dīc:** “Tinge.”

CONTESTANT SHOULD STAND AND, AGAIN AND AGAIN, EXTEND HIS LEFT ARM STRAIGHT, SIMULTANEOUSLY EXTEND HIS RIGHT ARM ACROSS HIS FACE AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SAY “DAB” OR SOME SYNONYM THEREOF.

B2: Perform the following command: **Omnēs stātē et, iterum iterumque, tollite ūnum digitum dextrae manūs suprā caput, movite digitum illum ad sinistram partem truncī et dīcite** “Omnēs nunc saltāte.”

ALL TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD STAND AND, AGAIN AND AGAIN, RAISE ONE FINGER OF THEIR RIGHT HAND ABOVE THEIR HEADS, MOVE SAID FINGER TO THE LEFT PART OF THEIR TORSO AND SAY: “EVERYBODY DANCE NOW.”

****SCORE CHECK****

11. From what Latin verb do we derive the English words “cogent,” “prodigal,” “navigate,” and “agile”?
AGŌ / AGERE

B1: What English adjective derived from **agō** means “doubtful” or “uncertain”?

AMBIGUOUS

B2: What English verb from **agō** means “to form into a solid state,” such as in the body in a clot?

COAGULATE

12. Which of the following does not belong because of meaning: **nūbēs, ventus, flōs, tempestās**?

FLŌS

B1: Give the meaning of the three words (besides **flōs**) in the tossup.

CLOUD, WIND, STORM

B2: Give the Latin word for “snow.”

NIX

13. What emperor was often assisted by the Berber general Lusius Quietus and won the Second Battle of Tapae, where his defeat of Decebalus ensured that the Roman Empire would include Dacia?

TRAJAN

B1: Domitian had previously fought a war against the Dacians, but what man before him had started planning to launch a large-scale invasion of both Dacia and Parthia in the year of his death?

(GAIUS) JULIUS CAESAR

B2: In defeating Decebalus, forces of Trajan also took what fun-to-pronounce capital of the Dacians?

SARMIZEGET(H)USA

14. Whose allies included a queen of the Volsci named Camilla when he came with a Rutulian army to claim Lavinia as his bride and wage war against Aeneas?

TURNUS

B1: What Arcadian king, living in the region that would become Rome, was a major ally of Aeneas and entrusted his son Pallas to him?

EVANDER

B2: In a simile, Vergil compares Camilla to what queen of the Amazons, who fought at Troy and was killed by Achilles?

PENTHESILEA

15. What Latin prefix makes **dō** mean “to lose”; makes **suādeō** mean “to convince”; makes **faciō** mean “to complete,” giving us the name of a Latin tense; and comes from a preposition meaning “through”?

PER-

B1: In the words **persuādeō** and **perficiō**, the prefix **per-** indicates following through with or completing an action. What is the base meaning of **suādeō**?

TO ADVISE

B2: What compound of **dō** means “to found”?

CONDŌ

****SCORE CHECK****

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

Quōdam diē vir nōluit ire ad pistōrem. Pānem enim cotīdiē emēbat, et alium cibum cupiēbat. Periculōsum autem iter erat ad piscātōrem. Postquam diū temptāvit iter perficere, vir inopiā cibī mortuus est.

The question: Why did the man not want to visit the baker?

HE ATE BREAD EVERY DAY, AND WANTED OTHER FOOD

B1: Answer in Latin: **Quālis via erat ad piscātōrem?**

PERICULŌSA

B2: What happened to the man in the end?

HE DIED FROM LACK OF FOOD

17. In the *Odyssey*, what location sees Odysseus receive moly, Elpenor drink so much wine that he falls off a roof, and men become pigs after drinking Circe’s potion?

AEAEA [PROMPT ON “CIRCE’S PALACE” WITH “WHERE WAS THAT?”]

B1: Circe later tells Odysseus that he will pass by what group, an adventure which required the curious Odysseus to be tied firmly to the mast of his ship?

SIRENS

B2: Circe also advises Odysseus what to do while on the island of Thrinacia, where Lampetie and Phaethusa tend to what significant group of animals?

CATTLE OF HELIOS

18. Translate the following sentence from English into Latin: “Whom will we see in the amphitheater?”

{QUEM / QUŌS} IN AMPHITHEĀTRŌ VIDĒBIMUS?

B1: Now translate from English into Latin: “Aurelia, who was in the city, was watching the fight.”

AURĒLIA, QUAE ERAT IN URBE, PUGNAM SPECTĀBAT

B2: Now translate this sentence into Latin: “The boy, whose father is a senator, will not be a senator.”

PUER, CUIUS PATER SENĀTOR EST, NŌN SENĀTOR ERIT

19. What people's attacks on the Sidicini brought them into contact with Rome, where they defeated Fabius Rullianus at Lautulae and bloodlessly forced an army trapped in a mountain pass to go under the yoke?

SAMNITE(S)

B1: The Third Samnite War was provoked by Barbatus, a member of what family? Later members of the family won the battles of Dertosa and Baecula.

SCIPIO(S) // (CORNĒLIŪ) SCĪPIŌNĒS

B2: Fabius Rullianus made up for his defeat at Lautulae with a victory at what battle 20 years later?

SENTINUM

****SCORE CHECK****

20. Having been handed daggers by their father, what group of bride-sisters agreed to kill their husbands on their wedding night, which explains why after death they had to endlessly carry water in leaky jars?

DANAIDS // BELIDES // DAUGHTERS OF DANAUS

B1: Their husbands were also their cousins, since these men were the sons of what brother of Danaus?

AEGYPTUS

B2: Name the only woman and man out of their respective groups who married each other and fled the scene.

HYPERMNESTRA and LYNCEUS