



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
THE CHALLENGE 2024
LATIN

Tuesday 30 April 2024

Time allowed: 2 hours

Answers to each of the three sections should be handed in on separate sheets of paper provided.

You should answer all questions in Sections A and B, but please note that in Section C there is a choice between a comprehension and a prose composition, and you should only answer ONE of these.

Please write in black or blue ink. Answer all questions on the answer sheets provided – do not answer on the question paper.

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Section A – Unseen Translation (40 marks)

Translate the following passage into English on alternate lines.

The city of Rome is saved from capture by the Gauls, thanks to the holy geese of Juno.

olim Galli urbem Romam oppugnaverunt. nam a Brenno, milite saevo, ducebantur. ea nocte caelum, de quo centum stellae lucebant, clarum erat. ubi Galli monti appropinquaverunt, tacite se moverunt quod custodes Romanorum fessi dormiebant. propter magna tela Gallis difficile erat ascendere. itaque quisque ascendens sua arma dedit comiti qui super se stabat. hostes saxa multa et maxima quoque in via invenerunt. sed unus eorum ad summum montem tandem advenit. deinde – ecce! – ibi in templo anserēs qui Junoni sacri erant clamorem ingentem fecerunt, alas verberantes.

Manlius, dux Romanus, ab anseribus sic excitatus, gladium cepit et custodes perterritos iratus iussit statim pugnare. ipse in periculum cucurrit ut hunc Gallum oppugnaret. scuto etiam fortiter eum percussit ut de monte pelleret. corpus Galli decidens decem alios secum tulit. Romani ceteros aut ceperunt aut necaverunt.

postridie autem quinque custodes morte puniti sunt. interea pro templo gratiae Junoni actae sunt quod dea illos anserēs civibus miserat.

Names

Gallus, -i, m.	a Gaul (a man from Gaul)
Roma, -ae, f.	Rome
Brennus, -i, m.	Brennus
Iuno, -onis, f.	Juno (the queen of the gods)
Manlius, -i, m.	Manlius

Vocabulary

stella, -ae, f.	star	ala, -ae, f.	wing
luceo, -ere	shine	verbero, -are	beat
tacite (adverb)	quietly	excito, -are	wake up
ascendo, -ere	climb	percutio, -ere, -cussi	strike
quisque	each (man)	decido, -ere	fall down
saxum, -i, n.	rock	secum	= cum se
summus, -a, -um	the top of	postridie (adverb)	the next day
ecce!	look!	gratias ago, agere, egi, actus	give thanks
anser, -eris, m.	goose		

Section B – Comprehension (50 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions opposite. The questions will help you to work your way through. Take your answers from the Latin indicated in each question.

The story of Arion, a Corinthian poet who was saved from the murderous plan of some sailors by a dolphin.

Arion, poeta notissimus, Corintho ad Siciliam profectus pecuniam magnam ibi comparavit. deinde quod iterum patriam videre cupiebat, in navem iam auro oneratam iniit. sed ubi in medio mari erant, nautae qui cognoverant eum aurum plurimum Corinthum reportare, consilium ceperunt ut eum interficerent. Arion tamen hoc consilio mox cognito, quamquam illos frustra oraverat ut sibi parcerent, “antequam mortem crudelem sic patiar,” inquit “unum carmen ultimum cantare volo.” nautae, quibus poetam tam clarum audire magnopere placebat, ei imperaverunt ut carmine sic facto in mare se iaceret. itaque veste splendida indutus in puppi navis solus stans cantavit. tum sine mora, cum carmen finivisset, in mare desiluit. subito delphinus qui carmen magno gaudio audiverat eum et in tergum accepit et tutum ad litus celeriter tulit.

Arion postquam Corinthum tandem rediit regi omnia nuntiavit. rex his auditis “credamne tibi?” inquit “quattuor dies in carcere te tenebo.” nautas tamen cum in portum advenissent vocatos de poeta rogavit; illi dixerunt eum in Sicilia validum manere. statim poeta e carcere ducto ostentoque rex nautas pessimos punivit.

Names

Arion, -is, m. – Arion

Corinthus, -i, f. – Corinth (a city in Greece)

Sicilia, -ae, f. – Sicily (the island to the south of Italy)

Vocabulary

comparo (1) – earn

onero (1) – load

cognosco, -ere, cognovi, cognitum – find out

consilium, -i, n. – plan

oro (1) – beg, beseech

parco, -ere, peperci (+ dative) – spare

carmen, -inis, n. – song, poem

ultimus, -a, -um – last, final

tam – so (adverb)

placet, -ere, placuit (+ dative) – it is pleasing

vestis, -is, m. – clothing

splendidus, -a, -um – flamboyant, splendid

indutus, -a, -um – clothed in

puppis, -is, f. – stern

finio, finire, finivi, finitum – finish

desilio, -ire, desilui – jump down

delphinus, -i, m. – dolphin

gaudium, -i, n. – joy

tergum, -i, n. – back

litus, -oris, n. – shore

carcer, -eris, m. – prison

1. *Arion ... comparavit* (line 1): What did Arion achieve in Sicily? (1)
2. *deinde ... iniit* (lines 1-2): Why did Arion board the ship? What are we told about the ship? (2,1)
3. *ubi ... erant* (line 2): Suggest a reason why the sailors made their plan at this point. (2)
4. *nautae ... interficerent* (lines 2-3): What prompted the sailors to come up with their plan? (3)
5. *Arion ... parcerent* (lines 3-4): Why did Arion beg, and what for? Was his plea successful? (2,2,1)
6. *antequam ... volo* (lines 4-5): Explain Arion's use of the adjective "*ultimum*" here. (2)
7. *nautae ... iaceret* (lines 5-6): Why did the sailors agree to Arion's request? What orders did they then give him? (2,2)
8. *itaque ... indutus* (lines 6-7): Suggest a reason for what is described here. (1)
9. *subito ... tulit* (lines 7-8): Why did the dolphin pick Arion up, and where did he take him to? (2,1)
10. Translate from *Arion* to *punivit* (lines 9-12), writing on alternate lines. (20)
11. Write down an example from the passage of:
 - a. a perfect passive participle;
 - b. a deponent verb in the future tense;
 - c. a purpose clause;
 - d. a third declension neuter noun in the accusative singular;
 - e. a pronoun in the dative case;
 - f. an accusative subject of an infinitive (in indirect statement). (6)

Section C: Do either the comprehension or the prose composition.

Comprehension (60 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the following questions. The Latin is difficult. Use carefully the introduction, the vocabulary, and the prompts given in each question. Where vocabulary is unfamiliar but not given, use your linguistic knowledge to guess well. Above all, grip and deploy your grammatical knowledge rigorously.

In 63 BC Cicero, one of the two consuls (most senior elected public officials) at the time, made a speech in the Senate accusing a fellow senator, Catiline, of conspiring to overthrow the Republic. Here he directly addresses Catiline, who is sitting isolated on the Senate benches, as he reveals dramatically the most recent of the secret intelligence he has gathered about the conspiracy.

recognosce mecum tandem noctem illam superiorem; iam intelleges multo me vigilare acrius ad salutem quam te ad perniciem rei publicae. dico te priore nocte venisse inter falcarios — non agam obscure — in M. Laecae domum; convenisse eodem complures eiusdem amentiae scelerisque socios. num negare audes? quid taces? convincam, si negas. video enim esse hic in senatu quosdam qui tecum una fuerunt. o di immortales! ubinam gentium sumus? quam rem publicam habemus? in qua 5
urbe vivimus? hic, hic sunt in nostro numero, patres conscripti, in hoc orbis terrae sanctissimo gravissimoque consilio, qui de nostro omnium interitu, qui de huius urbis atque adeo de orbis terrarum exitio cogitent. hos ego video consul et de re publica sententiam rogo, et quos ferro trucidari oportebat, eos nondum voce vulnero! fuisti igitur apud Laecam illa nocte, Catilina, 10
distribuisti partes Italiae, statuisti quo quemque proficisci placeret, delegisti quos Romae relinqueres, quos tecum educeres, discripsisisti urbis partes ad incendia, confirmasti te ipsum iam esse exiturum, dixisti paulum tibi esse etiam nunc morae, quod ego viverem.

Vocabulary

superior – (*here*) earlier

vigilo – keep watch, stay awake

acer, acris, acre – eager, vehement

salus, salutis, f. – safety

perniciēs, -ei, f. – destruction

falcarius – scythe-maker

complures – several, many

amentia, -ae, f. – insanity

quid – (*here*) why

una – (*adverb*) together, as one

di = dei

patres conscripti – (*here*) senators

orbis, -is, m. – circle, orb

interitus, -us, m. – destruction

adeo – (*here*) even

exitium, -i, n. – downfall

ferrum, -i, n. – (*here*) sword

trucido (1) – slaughter, butcher

oportet – it is necessary / proper for (+ acc.)

nondum – not yet

statuo, statuere, statui, statutus – determine

deligo, deligere, delegi, delectus – choose

discribo, -scribere, -scripsi, -scriptum – assign

confirmasti = confirmavisti

paulus, -a, -um – little, small

mora, -ae, f. – delay

1. *recognosce ... rei publicae* (lines 1-2): Cicero compares his own vigilance with that of Catiline. Explain the comparison, giving full detail.
2. *dico ... socios* (lines 2-3): Cicero makes a claim about what Catiline did on the previous night.
 - i. Give two details about where in the city Catiline went. Why is Cicero being so precise?
 - ii. How does Cicero's use of language here emphasise the danger that the conspiracy presents? Make two points.
3. *num ... fuerunt* (lines 4-5): Cicero tries to deepen Catiline's discomfort with a burst of direct challenges. Translate those four sentences.
4. *o di ... vivimus* (lines 5-6): Cicero further increases the intensity with a series of rhetorical exclamations. What about the style or sentiment here makes the series effective? Make three points.
5. *hic, hic ... cogitent* (lines 6-8): Cicero reiterates his shocking claim that other murderous conspirators are at this moment sitting amidst the senators.
 - i. "cogitent" is a *generic subjunctive* in the present tense. What would "cogitent" be if put into the indicative? Using your etymological knowledge, what do you think a *generic subjunctive* is used for?
 - ii. How does Cicero's style here maximise the drama of the moment? Make four points.
6. *hos ego ... vulnero* (lines 8-9): Cicero highlights the strangeness of how these revolutionaries are being treated.
 - i. The *antecedent* of a pronoun is the noun or pronoun in the place of which that pronoun stands. What is the antecedent of "quos" here?
 - ii. Pick out from this sentence two instrumental ablatives.
 - iii. Explain the contrast Cicero is drawing here between what ought to have happened and what is actually happening. Give full detail.
7. *fuisti ... incendia* (lines 9-11): Cicero returns to the scene of the previous night, giving greater detail.
 - i. Here "quemque" is the subject of the deponent infinitive "proficisci". What is its feminine singular dative form?
 - ii. Translate from "distribuisti" to "educeres".
 - iii. Here Cicero has a string of clauses which all begin with the same form of their respective verbs. What is that form? What effect do you think Cicero is trying to create by this heavy emphasis?
8. *confirmasti ... viverem* (lines 11-12): Cicero reports Catiline as having noted a slight hitch in his plans. "ego" is not needed for its clause to make sense. With which preceding words does it form a contrast? Why do you think Cicero wants to create that contrast?

Prose Composition (60 marks)

Translate the following passage into Latin on alternate lines. The vocabulary given underneath is for your guidance only: you do not have to use it if you do not wish to.

When Alexander died, he left behind a huge empire, but he had not chosen a successor. The soldiers, led by Meleager, wanted Alexander's brother to rule, but the cavalry under the command of Perdiccas hoped that Alexander's unborn son would become king.

Soon Perdiccas ordered his soldiers to kill Meleager and all his men. Then he divided the empire into different parts and handed them over to his friends. At the same time he tried to marry Alexander's sister in order to increase his power.

However, Perdiccas's generals, who had begun to fear their leader, gathered to decide what they should do. A few loyal men said that they would never desert him. But the majority thought he was so cruel that he had to be overthrown. "For," they said, "if we kill him as quickly as possible, perhaps there will be peace throughout the empire."

Although everyone was persuaded, at first no one dared to carry out the task. Eventually, after Perdiccas was heavily defeated in battle in Egypt, three generals murdered him at night in his tent.

Names

Alexander	Alexander, Alexandri, m.
Meleager	Meleager, Meleagri, m.
Perdiccas	Perdiccas, Perdiccae, m. (acc. Perdiccan, dat. Perdiccae, abl. Perdicca)
Egypt	Aegyptus, Aegypti, f.

Vocabulary

unborn	nondum natus, -a, -um
I marry	in matrimonium duco (+ acc.)