



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
THE CHALLENGE 2023
LATIN

Tuesday 25 April 2023

Time allowed: 2 hours

- **There are three sections to this exam. You should answer all questions in Sections A and B. In Section C you have a choice between a comprehension and a prose composition. Do only one of them.**
- **Answers to each of the three sections should be handed in on separate sheets of paper.**
- **Please write in black or blue ink. Answer all questions on the answer sheets provided; do not answer on this question paper.**

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Section A – Unseen Translation (40 marks)

Translate the following passage into English on alternate lines.

Through his great skill as a singer, Orpheus has extraordinary powers. It even seems that he will be able to use them to lead his wife Eurydice back to the world of the living ...

Orpheus cantor optimus erat. nam ubi in urbe cantabat, omnes cives non se movere poterant quod carmina eius diu audire maxime cupiebant; ubi in silvis, animalia saeva, quae carminibus intenta stabant, tranquilla fiebant. olim tamen, tristis quod uxor carissima, Eurydica nomine, necata erat, in Tartarum descendere constituit. “non potero” inquit “solus manere. carmine igitur meo Plutonem ipsum vincam et cogam liberare uxorem.” Plutoni sic persuasit. nam hic ei permisit Eurydicam e morte ad terram reducere. sed eum monuit ne in itinere ad uxorem spectaret. “si hoc facies” dixit “Eurydica numquam e Tartaro discedet.” iter quo ad terram duo ibant longum difficileque erat. Orpheus tandem ad lucem adveniebat. sed quod Eurydicam post se ambulanti audire non iam poterat, respectavit ut eam tutam conspiceret. ea statim revocata est et clamabat “o crudelis, cur me delevisti? num vis semper sine me miser esse?”

Names

Orpheus, Orphei, m.	Orpheus
Eurydica, -ae, f.	Eurydice
Tartarus, -i, m.	Tartarus (the world of the dead)
Pluto, -onis, m.	Pluto (the King of Tartarus)

Vocabulary

cantor, -oris, m.	singer
carmen, -inis, n.	song
silva, -ae, f.	wood, forest
intentus -a -um (+ dat.)	focused (on)
tranquillus -a -um	calm
fio, fieri, factus sum	I become
descendo, -ere, descendi	I go down
persuadeo, -ere, persuasi (+ dat.)	I persuade
permitto, -ere, permisi (+dat.)	I allow

Section B – Comprehension (50 marks)

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

In a naval battle, the Carthaginian general Hannibal defeats Eumenes, the King of the Pergamenes, with two clever stratagems.

Hannibal nuntium qui caduceum habebat in scapha misit ut navem Eumenis ipsius inveniret. nuntius, postquam epistulam ferens navibus hostium appropinquavit, locutus est se regem petere. statim ad Eumenis navem ductus est, quod Pergameni credebant aliquid de pace in epistula scriptum esse. loco regis Hannibali ita ostenso, mox in scapha rediit.

Eumenes, ubi epistula soluta nihil de pace legit, ridere coepit. nam vir superbus erat, qui fidem in maiore 5 numero navium habebat. Hannibal autem, quod paucioras naves habebat quam Eumenes, dolo regem vincere conabatur. omnes igitur naves regem solum oppugnabant; hic, cum impetum earum pati non posset, fugit.

nautae tamen Hannibalis, cum ab aliis Pergamenorum navibus paene superarentur, subito vasa fictilia iaciebant. primum Pergameni non credere haec exitiosa esse poterant. sed ubi naves suas serpentum 10 plenas viderunt, territi in mare se iecerunt; nam quattuor diebus ante proelium, Hannibal serpentes in vasa poni iusserat. itaque plurimis navibus captis hostibusque interfectis, tandem militibus laetus imperavit ut ad portum regrederentur. sic Hannibal audax copias Pergamenorum prudencia vicit.

Names

Hannibal, -is, m. – Hannibal (a Carthaginian general)

Eumenes, -is, m. – Eumenes (King of the Pergamenes)

Pergameni, -orum, m. – the Pergamenes (the people of Pergamum)

Vocabulary

caduceus, -i, m. – herald's staff (a token of peace)

scapha, -ae, f. – small boat

epistula, -ae, f. – letter

aliquid, n. acc. – something

pax, pacis, f. – peace

solvo, -ere, solvi, solutum – (*here*) open

coepi – I began

numerus, -i, m. – number

dolus, -i, m. – deceit

impetus, -us, m. – attack

vas, vasis, n. – pot

fictilis -e – made from clay

primum (adverb) – at first

exitiosus -a -um – deadly

serpens, -entis, m. – snake

plenus -a -um – full

prudencia, -ae, f. – skill

1. *Hannibal ... inveniret* (line 1): who did Hannibal send, and why? Give full detail. (4)
2. *nuntius ... petere* (lines 1-2): what did the messenger do after approaching the enemy ships? (2)
3. *statim ... scriptum esse* (lines 2-3): what happened to the messenger? Why did the Pergamenes react in this way? (4)
4. *Eumenes ... coepit* (line 5): what prompted Eumenes's laughter? (2)
5. *nam ... navium habebat* (lines 5-6): what are we told about the king in these lines? (3)
6. *Hannibal ... oppugnabant* (lines 6-7): explain Hannibal's strategy for defeating the king. Give full detail. (3)
7. *hic ... fugit* (lines 7-8): why did Eumenes flee? (2)
8. Translate from *nautae* to *iusserat* (lines 9-12), writing on alternate lines. (20)
9. *itaque ... regrederentur* (lines 12-13): what order did Hannibal give, and why? (4)
10. Write down an example from the passage of:
 - a. a perfect passive participle;
 - b. a deponent verb;
 - c. an ablative absolute;
 - d. an adjective in the neuter accusative plural;
 - e. a present passive infinitive;
 - f. an ablative of the instrument. (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 70 BC Cicero prosecuted the praetor Verres, accusing him of committing dreadful crimes during his governorship of Sicily, including extortion and judicial murder. Here in court he describes the treatment of Sicilian naval captains who were imprisoned and condemned on a false charge of cowardice in the face of pirates. Sextius, Verres's lictor (attendant and bodyguard), plays a particularly horrendous role.

Includuntur in carcerem condemnati; supplicium constituitur in illos, sumitur de miseris parentibus nauarchorum; prohibentur adire ad filios, prohibentur liberis suis cibum vestitumque ferre. Patres hi quos videtis iacebant in limine, matresque miserae pernoctabant ad ostium carceris ab extremo conspectu liberorum exclusae; quae nihil aliud orabant nisi ut filiorum suorum postremum spiritum ore excipere liceret. Aderat ianitor carceris, carnifex praetoris, mors terrorque sociorum et civium Romanorum, lictor Sextius, cui ex omni gemitu doloreque certa merces comparabatur. "Ut adeas, hoc dabis, ut cibum tibi ferre liceat, hoc." Nemo recusabat. "Quid? ut uno ictu securis adferam mortem filio tuo, quid dabis? ne diu crucietur, ne saepius feriatur, ne cum sensu doloris spiritus auferatur?" Etiam ob hanc causam pecunia lictori dabatur. O magnum atque intolerandum dolorem! O gravem acerbamque fortunam! Non vitam liberorum, sed mortis celeritatem pretio redimere cogebantur parentes. Atque ipsi etiam adulescentes cum Sextio de plaga et de uno illo ictu loquebantur, idque postremum parentis suos liberi orabant, ut levandi cruciatus sui causa lictori pecunia daretur.

Vocabulary

includo, -ere, -clusi, -clusum – shut in, shut up
supplicium, -i, n. – (*here*) capital punishment
sumo, -ere – take, exact
nauarchus, -i, m. – naval captain
prohibeo, -ere – prevent
vestitus, -us, m. – clothing
iaceo, -ere – lie
limen, -inis, n. – threshold
pernocto, -are – verb from "per" and "nox"
ostium – front door
extremus – final
conspectus, -us, m. – noun from "conspicio"
oro, -are – beg (for)
nisi – (*here*) except
postremus – last
os, oris, n. – mouth
licet (+ dat. of person X) – person X is allowed

carnifex, -icis, m. – executioner
gemitus, -us, m. – moan, groan
dolor, -is, m. – pain
merces, -cedis, f. – pay, bribe
comparo, -are – provide, collect
recuso, -are – refuse
ictus, -us, m. – blow, stroke
securis, -is, f. – axe
diu – for a long time
crucio, -are – torture
ferio, -ire – strike
aufero (compound of "fero") – take away
ob – for, on account of
pretium, -i, n. – price
redimo, -ere – (*here*) buy
plaga, -ae, f. – stroke, blow
levo – lighten, relieve

1. *includuntur ... ferre* (lines 1-2): Cicero says that the condemned men's punishment is also inflicted on their parents. Explain what he means, giving full detail.
2. *patres ... exclusae* (lines 2-4): Cicero describes the situation of the men's fathers and mothers outside the prison.
 - i. Who do you think are the subject of "videtis"? What does that suggest about how exactly Cicero is using the fathers at this point?
 - ii. How does the choice, sound or position of Cicero's words increase the effectiveness of his description of the mothers? Make two points.
3. *quae ... liceret* (lines 4-5): Cicero tells us what the desperate mothers wanted during those days. Translate the clause.
4. *aderat ... comparabatur* (lines 5-6): Cicero introduces the dastardly Sextius into his narrative. How does his style in this sentence maximise the impact of this arrival? Make three points.
5. *ut adeas ... recusabat* (lines 6-7): Cicero quotes what (according to him) Sextius used to say to the parents during their sons' imprisonment.
 - i. "adeas" is the 2nd person singular present subjunctive of "adeo". What is its indicative equivalent?
 - ii. Explain how Sextius was extorting money from the parents here.
6. *quid? ... auferatur* (lines 7-8): Cicero quotes Sextius intensifying the cruelty of his threats.
 - i. "adferam" is another present subjunctive. In what person and number do you think it is? What is the perfect active infinitive of the same verb?
 - ii. What are the four particular advantages that Sextius promises to the parents in return for bribes?
7. *o magnum ... parentes* (lines 9-11): Cicero emphasises the despicable and upsetting nature of Sextius's treatment of the parents.
 - i. From the two exclamations here, list five directly derived English words.
 - ii. "celeritas, -tatis" is an abstract noun. What is its corresponding adverb?
 - iii. *Chiasmus* is a literary device in which words form the pattern A-B-B-A, where "A" and "B" each represent a particular linguistic inflection. Write down the chiasmus in the third sentence here (*non ... parentes*).
 - iv. Explain the emphasis that the chiasmus here achieves.
8. *atque ... daretur* (lines 11-12): Cicero describes how the young captains supported Sextius's demands with their own pleas.
 - i. In the last clause (*ut ... daretur*), "pecunia" is the only nominative.
 - a. In what case is "causa"?
 - b. "cruciatus" is an abstract noun. In what case is it?
 - ii. Is the prisoners' attitude here at all surprising?

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.

After Hercules had done eleven difficult labours, he wanted to be praised. However, King Eurystheus ordered him to capture the dog of the Underworld. “Hand Cerberus over to me,” he said, “and I shall send you free from this city.”

Hercules found out that near to the palace a road was leading to the sea. With the stars showing him the way, he arrived at Taenarum. Hercules found chains there with which he could capture Cerberus. This very big dog had three heads and guarded the Underworld bravely, since he loved his master, King Pluto himself.

Pluto ordered Hercules to fight with his hands and without his club. Although he had been warned that Hercules was the best wrestler, Pluto favoured Cerberus, who liked to eat men. Hercules immediately attacked the dog. Finally conquered, Cerberus slowly submitted his necks to the chains in order to be captured. Hercules returned to Greece with the dog.

When he saw that they had entered the palace, Eurystheus shouted that they should go away. Hercules was not the king’s slave any longer.

Names

Hercules	Hercules, -is, m.
Eurystheus	Eurystheus, -i, m.
Underworld	Tartarus, -i, m.
Cerberus	Cerberus, -i, m.
Taenarum	Taenarum, -i, n.
Pluto	Dis, Ditis, m.
Greece	Graecia, -ae, f.

Vocabulary

eleven – undecim (indeclinable)
dog – canis, -is, m.
palace – regia, -ae, f.
sea – mare, -is, n.
star – sidus, sideris, n.
show – monstro, -are
chain – catena, -ae, f.

head – caput, -itis, n.
club – fustis, -is, m.
wrestler – luctator, -oris, m.
favour – faveo, -ere, favi, fautum (+ dat.)
submit – submitto, -mittere, -misi, -missum
neck – collum, -i, n.
any longer – iam