

Modified Enlarged 24pt
OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Monday 9 June 2025 – Afternoon

A Level Latin

H443/03 Prose Literature

Time allowed: 2 hours
plus your additional time allowance

YOU MUST HAVE:
the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
DO NOT USE:
a dictionary

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.

Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.

Answer ONE question in Section A, ONE question in Section B and ONE question in Section C.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 75.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

Answer ONE question from this section.

- 1 Read the following passages and answer the questions.

sed tamen venenum unde fuerit,
quem ad modum paratum sit, non
dicitur. datum esse aiunt huic
Publio Licinio, pudenti adulescenti
et bono, Caeli familiari; constitutum 5
esse cum servis ut venirent ad
balneas Senias; eodem Licinium
esse venturum atque eis veneni
pyxidem traditurum. hic primum
illud requiro, quid attinuerit 10
ferri in eum locum constitutum,
cur illi servi non ad Caelium
domum venerint. si manebat
tanta illa consuetudo Caeli, tanta
familiaritas cum Clodia, quid 15
suspicionis esset, si apud Caelium
mulieris servus visus esset?
sin autem iam suberat simultas,

praegestit animus iam videre
primum lautos iuvenes mulieris
beatae ac nobilis familiares, deinde
fortes viros ab imperatrice in insidiis
atque in praesidio balnearum 5
collocatos; ex quibus requiram,
quem ad modum latuerint aut ubi,
alveusne ille an equus Troianus
fuerit, qui tot invictos viros muliebres
bellum gerentes tulerit ac texerit. 10
illud vero respondere cogam, cur
tot viri ac tales hunc et unum et
tam imbecillum, quam videtis, non
aut stantem comprehenderint aut
fugientem consecuti sint; qui se 15
numquam profecto, si in istum
locum processerint, explicabunt.
quam volent in conviviiis faceti,
dicaces, non numquam etiam ad
vinum disertis sint, alia fori vis est, 20
alia triclinii, alia subselliorum ratio,
alia lectorum; non idem iudicum
comissatorumque conspectus; lux
denique longe alia est solis, alia
lychnorum. 25

Cicero, 'Pro Caelio' 67

(d)* How does Cicero ridicule the young men in this passage?

You should refer BOTH to the content AND to the language of the passage. [15]

2 Read the following passages and answer the questions.

**Fausto Sulla Salvio Othone
consulibus Furius Scribonianus in
exilium agitur, quasi finem principis
per Chaldaeos scrutaretur.**

adnectebatur crimini Vibia mater 5

**eius, ut casus prioris (nam relegata
erat) impatiens. pater Scriboniani**

Camillus arma per Dalmatiam

moverat; idque ad clementiam

trahebat Caesar, quod stirpem 10

hostilem iterum conservaret. neque

tamen exuli longa posthac vita

fuit: morte fortuita an per venenum

extinctus esset, ut quisque credidit,

vulgavere. de mathematicis 15

Italia pellendis factum senatus

consultum atrox et inritum. laudati

dehinc oratione principis qui

ob angustias familiares ordine

senatorio sponte cederent, motique 20

qui remanendo impudentiam

paupertati adicerent.

Tacitus, 'Annals' XII.52

- (a) ‘Fausto Sulla ... scrutaretur’ (lines 1–4): why was Scribonianus exiled? [1]**
- (b) In lines 5–7 (‘adnectebatur ... impatiens’), what do we learn about Scribonianus’ mother, Vibia? [2]**
- (c) Translate ‘pater ... vulgavere’ (lines 7–15). [5]**
- (d) ‘laudati ... adiciere’ (lines 17–22): why did Claudius praise some senators but punish others? [4]**

ripas et colles montiumque edita in
modum theatri multitudo innumera
complevit, proximis e municipiis
et alii urbe ex ipsa, visendi
cupidine aut officio in principem. 5
ipse insigni paludamento neque
procul Agrippina chlamyde aurata
praesedere. pugnatum quamquam
inter sontes fortium virorum animo,
ac post multum vulnerum occidioni 10
exempti sunt. sed perfecto
spectaculo apertum aquarum
iter. incuria operis manifesta fuit,
haud satis depressi ad lacus
ima vel media. eoque tempore 15
interiecto altius effossi specus, et
contrahendae rursum multitudini
gladiatorum spectaculum editur,
inditis pontibus pedestrem ad
pugnam. quin et convivium 20
effluvio lacus adpositum magna
formidine cunctos adfecit, quia
vis aquarum prorumpens proxima
trahebat, convulsis ulterioribus aut
fragore et sonitu exterritis. simul 25

**Agrippina trepidatione principis
usa ministrum operis Narcissum
incusat cupidinis ac praedarum.
nec ille reticet, impotentiam
muliebrem nimiasque spes eius
arguens.**

30

Tacitus, 'Annals' XII.56–57

**(e)* How does Tacitus sustain our interest
in this passage?**

**You should refer BOTH to the
content AND to the language of the
passage. [15]**

SECTION B

Answer ONE question from this section.

- 3 Read the following passage and answer the questions.

hic ego ipsam rem definiam,
mulierem nullam nominabo;
tantum in medio relinquam. si quae
non nupta mulier domum suam
patefecerit omnium cupiditati 5
palamque sese in meretricia vita
collocarit, virorum alienissimorum
conviviis uti instituerit, si hoc in
urbe, si in hortis, si in Baiarum
illa celebritate faciat, si denique 10
ita sese gerat non incesso solum,
sed ornatu atque comitatu, non
flagrantia oculorum, non libertate
sermonum, sed etiam complexu,
osculatione, actis, navigatione, 15
conviviis ut non solum meretrix,
sed etiam proterva meretrix
procaxque videatur: cum hac si

qui adulescens forte fuerit, utrum
hic tibi, Lucii Herenni, adulter an 20
amator, expugnare pudicitiam
an explere libidinem voluisse
videatur? obliviscor iam iniurias
tuas, Clodia, depono memoriam
doloris mei; quae abs te crudeliter 25
in meos me absente facta sunt,
neglego; ne sint haec in te dicta
quae dixi.

sed ex te ipsa requiro, quoniam
et crimen accusatores abs te et 30
testem eius criminis te ipsam
dicunt se habere. si quae mulier
sit eius modi, qualem ego paulo
ante descripsi, tui dissimilis, vita
institutoque meretricio, cum hac 35
aliquid adulescentem hominem
habuisse rationis num tibi perturpe
aut perflagitiosum esse videatur?
ea si tu non es, sicut ego malo,
quid est, quod obiciant Caelio? sin 40
eam te volunt esse, quid est, cur
nos crimen hoc, si tu contemnis,

**pertimescamus? quare nobis da
viam rationemque defensionis.
aut enim pudor tuus defendet
nihil a Marco Caelio petulantius
esse factum, aut impudentia et
huic et ceteris magnam ad se
defendendum facultatem dabit.**

45

Cicero, 'Pro Caelio' 48–50

**(a)* 'hic ego ... dixi' (lines 1–28): what
makes this passage a powerful attack
on Clodia?**

**You should refer BOTH to the
content AND to the language of the
passage. [15]**

**(b) 'sed ex te ipsa ... habere' (lines 29–32):
what do the accusers say about
Clodia? [2]**

**(c) Translate 'si quae mulier ... obiciant
Caelio' (lines 32–40). [5]**

- (d) In lines 40–43 ('sin eam ... pertimescamus'), how does Cicero undermine the prosecution case? [3]**
- (e) 'aut enim pudor ... dabit' (lines 45–49): explain how Cicero here presents an unchallengeable defence of Caelius. [3]**

4 Read the following passage and answer the questions.

haec consensu produntur.
aspexeritne matrem exanimem
Nero et formam corporis eius
laudaverit, sunt qui tradiderint,
sunt qui abnuant. cremata est 5
nocte eadem convivali lecto et
exequiis vilibus; neque, dum Nero
rerum potiebatur, congesta aut
clausa humus. mox domesticorum
cura levem tumulum accepit, viam 10
Miseni propter et villam Caesaris
dictatoris quae subiectos sinus
editissima prospectat. accenso
rogo libertus eius cognomento
Mnester se ipse ferro transegit, 15
incertum caritate in patronam an
metu exitii. hunc sui finem multos
ante annos crediderat Agrippina
contempseratque. nam consulenti
super Nerone responderunt 20
Chaldaei fore ut imperaret
matremque occideret; atque illa
'occidat' inquit, 'dum imperet.'

sed a Caesare perfecto demum
scelere magnitudo eius intellecta 25
est. reliquo noctis modo per
silentium defixus, saepius pavore
exsurgens et mentis inops
lucem opperiebatur tamquam
exitium adlaturam. atque eum 30
auctore Burro prima centurionum
tribunorumque adulatio ad spem
firmavit, prensantium manum
gratantiumque quod discrimen
improvisum et matris facinus 35
evasisset. amici dehinc adire
templa et coepto exemplo proxima
Campaniae municipia victimis et
legationibus laetitiam testari: ipse
diversa simulatione maestus et 40
quasi incolumitati suae infensus
ac morti parentis inlacrimans. quia
tamen non, ut hominum vultus,
ita locorum facies mutantur,
obversabaturque maris illius 45
et litorum gravis aspectus (et
erant qui crederent sonitum
tubae collibus circum editis
planctusque tumulto matris audiri),

**Neapolim concessit litterasque 50
ad senatum misit quarum
summa erat repertum cum ferro
percussorem Agerinum, ex intimis
Agrippinae libertis, et luisse eam
poenas conscientia quasi scelus 55
paravisset.**

Tacitus, 'Annals' XIV.9–10

- (a) In line 1, what is Tacitus referring to by 'these events' ('haec')? [1]**
- (b) How do lines 2–9 ('aspexeritne ... humus') show Nero's lack of respect towards his mother? [5]**
- (c) 'mox ... accepit' (lines 9–10): how does this show a more respectful response to Agrippina's death? [2]**
- (d) Translate 'accenso ... imperet' (lines 13–23). [5]**

**(e)*‘sed a Caesare ... paravisset’
(lines 24–56): what makes this such
a vivid description of the reactions to
Agrippina’s death?**

**You should refer BOTH to the
content AND to the language of the
passage. [15]**

5 Read the following passages and answer the questions.

confecerunt me infirmitates
meorum, mortes etiam, et quidem
iuvenum. solacia duo nequaquam
paria tanto dolori, solacia tamen:
unum facilitas manumittendi (videor 5
enim non omnino immaturos
perdidisse, quos iam liberos
perdidi), alterum quod permitto
servis quoque quasi testamenta
facere, eaque ut legitima custodio. 10
mandant rogantque quod visum;
pareo ut iussus. dividunt donant
relinquunt, dumtaxat intra
domum; nam servis res publica
quaedam et quasi civitas domus 15
est. sed quamquam his solaciis
acquiescam, debilitor et frangor
eadem illa humanitate, quae me ut
hoc ipsum permitterem induxit. non
ideo tamen velim durior fieri. nec 20
ignoro alios eius modi casus nihil
amplius vocare quam damnum,
eoque sibi magnos homines et

**sapientes videri. qui an magni
sapientesque sint, nescio; homines 25
non sunt.**

Pliny, 'Letters' 8.16

- (a) Translate 'confecerunt ... custodio' (lines 1–10). [5]**
- (b) 'mandant ... domus est' (lines 11–16): in what ways is Pliny's treatment of his slaves unusual? [3]**
- (c) Lines 16–19 ('sed quamquam ... induxit'): what contrast does Pliny make here? [2]**
- (d) In lines 20–26 ('nec ignoro ... non sunt'), what does Pliny say to show his disapproval of other people in such circumstances? [3]**

Regulus filium amisit, hoc uno
 malo indignus, quod nescio an
 malum putet. erat puer acris
 ingenii sed ambiguus, qui tamen
 posset recta sectari, si patrem 5
 non referret. hunc Regulus
 emancipavit, ut heres matris
 exsisteret; mancipatum (ita vulgo
 ex moribus hominis loquebantur)
 foeda et insolita parentibus 10
 indulgentiae simulatione captabat.
 incredibile, sed Regulum cogita.
 amissum tamen luget insane.
 habebat puer mannulos multos et
 iunctos et solutos, habebat canes 15
 maiores minoresque, habebat
 lusciniās psittacos merulas: omnes
 Regulus circa rogam trucidavit.
 nec dolor erat ille, sed ostentatio
 doloris. convenitur ad eum mira 20
 celebritate. cuncti detestantur
 oderunt, et quasi probent quasi
 diligant, cursant frequentant, utque
 breviter quod sentio enuntiem,
 in Regulo demerendo Regulum 25

**imitantur. tenet se trans Tiberim in
hortis, in quibus latissimum solum
porticibus immensis, ripam statuis
suis occupavit, ut est in summa
avaritia sumptuosus, in summa
infamia gloriosus.**

30

Pliny, 'Letters' 4.2

**(e)*In this passage, how does Pliny
emphasise his contempt for Regulus?**

**You should refer BOTH to the
content AND to the language of the
passage. [15]**

SECTION C

Answer ONE question from this section.

You MUST use material from the parts of the text you have studied in English, where relevant, as well as those parts you have read in Latin.

6* How effective do you find Cicero's defence of Caelius in 'Pro Caelio'? [20]

7* 'In "Annals" XIII and XIV, Tacitus shows that power in Rome led only to vice and corruption.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? [20]

8* 'Pliny's letters show him to be a role model for his times.'

How far do you agree with this assessment? [20]

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