



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 2 June 2025 – Morning

A Level Latin

H443/02 Prose Composition or Comprehension

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

Do not use:

- a dictionary

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 **either** the questions in Section A **or** the question in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

Answer Section A **or** Section B.

Section A

Comprehension and Grammar

Read the passage.

After the discovery of a plot, the Senate debate what should be done with the arrested conspirators. Cato's proposal of the death sentence is accepted and the executions are carried out that very day.

ita locutus est Cato: 'cum res publica consilio scelestorum hominum in maxima pericula venerit eique confessi sint se caedem, incendia aliaque crudelia facinora in cives patriamque paravisse, more antiquo supplicium est sumendum'.

postquam Cato consedit, consulares omnes magnaue pars senatus sententiam eius laudant, virtutem animi ad caelum ferunt, alii alios accusantes timidos vocant. Cato clarus atque magnus habetur; senatui constitutum est sicut ille suaserat.

5

tum consul, ratus ante noctem agendum esse, ne quid mali eo spatio temporis fieret, carnifices ea quae res postulabat statim parare iubet. ipse praesidiis dispositis Lentulum in carcerem deducit; idem fit ceteris per praetores. est in carcere locus qui Tullianum appellatur, ubi paulum ascenderis ad sinistram, circiter duodecim pedes humi depressus. eum muniunt undique muri validi; incultu, tenebris, odore terribilis est eius facies. in eum locum postquam demissus est Lentulus, carnifices, ut imperatum erat, laqueo collum fregerunt. ita ille nobilis ex gente clarissima natus, qui consulare imperium Romae habuerat, dignum moribus factisque suis exitium vitae invenit. de ceteris captivis eodem modo supplicium sumptum est.

10

15

Sallust, *Bellum Catilinae*, 52–55 (adapted)

Names

Cato, -onis (m)

Lentulus, -i (m)

Tullianum, -i (n)

Cato (a senator)

Lentulus (one of the conspirators)

the Tullianum

Words

supplicium, -i (n)

consularis, -e

carnifex, -icis (m)

incultus, -us (m)

laqueus, -i (m)

punishment

consular, of consular rank

executioner

filth

rope, noose

- 1 *cum res ... sumendum* (lines 1–3):
- (a) what accusations did Cato make against the conspirators? [5]
 - (b) what course of action did he suggest? [2]
- 2 In lines 4–6 (*postquam ... suaserat*), what indications are there that Cato's speech received a positive reaction from the Senate? [6]
- 3 *tum ... praetores* (lines 7–9): what does Sallust mention which shows fear and urgency? [5]
- 4 *est in carcere ... facies* (lines 9–12): what details does Sallust give about the prison to which the prisoners were taken? [6]
- 5 Translate *in eum locum ... invenit* (lines 12–14).
Please write your translation on alternate lines. [10]
- 6 *de ceteris ... est* (lines 14–15): what happened to the other conspirators? [1]
- 7 State and explain the case of the following:
- (a) *cives* (line 3) [2]
 - (b) *spatio* (line 7) [2]
 - (c) *ceteris* (line 9) [2]
 - (d) *eodem modo* (line 15) [2]
- 8 Give the present infinitive of the following:
- (a) *locutus* (line 1) [1]
 - (b) *dispositis* (line 8) [1]
 - (c) *fregerunt* (line 13) [1]
- 9 Explain why the following verbs need to be subjunctive, using a translation if you think it is helpful:
- (a) *venerit* (line 2) [1]
 - (b) *fieret* (line 8) [1]
- 10 In line 7, *ratus ante noctem agendum esse*, which parts of the verb are:
- (a) *ratus*? [1]
 - (b) *agendum*? [1]

Section B

Prose Composition

Do **not** answer this section if you have already answered Section A.

11 Translate this passage into Latin prose.

You are reminded that marks will be awarded for the style of your translation.

Please write your translation on alternate lines.

[50]

Severus hoped to conquer the whole island and gradually advanced through Caledonia. The troops put great effort into cutting down forests and bridging rivers, but for a long time they fought no battle and saw no enemy. The inhabitants had left in the fields many herds of cattle, which the soldiers tried to seize until they suddenly came under attack. So weak that they could hardly walk, around fifty thousand men were killed by their own side to avoid capture.

But Severus, carried in a litter to conserve his strength, demanded to reach the very end of land. There he observed how the length of the days and nights changes between summer and winter with the course of the sun. He eventually forced the Caledonians to surrender the greater part of their territory, then returned to his fortress at York, where shortly afterwards he died, worn out by illness.

Names

Severus
Caledonia
Caledonians
York

Severus, -i (m)
Caledonia, -ae (f)
Caledonii, -orum (m pl)
Eboracum, -i (n)

Words

I cut down
herd of cattle
a litter
length

excido, -ere, -cidi, -cismus
pecus, -oris (n)
lectica, -ae (f)
longitudo, -inis (f)

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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