



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 16 May 2025 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) Latin

J282/03 Prose Literature B

Time allowed: 1 hour



Do not use:

- a dictionary



Please write clearly in black ink. **Do not write in the barcodes.**

Centre number

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Candidate number

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First name(s)

Last name

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If you need extra space use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Answer **all** the questions.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **16** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

1 Read the passage and answer the questions.

Messalina novo et quasi insano amore incensa est. nam in C. Silius, iuventutis Romanae pulcherrimum, ita exarserat ut Iuniam Silanam, nobilem feminam, matrimonio eius exturbaret liberoque adultero potiretur. neque Silius flagitii aut periculi nescius erat: sed intellexit exitium, si abnueret, fore certum et, si consentiret, nonnullam facinoris celandi spem esse.

5

Tacitus, *Messalina*, lines 1–7

(a) *Messalina ... incensa est* (line 1): what do we learn about Messalina here?

.....
 [2]

(b) *nam ... potiretur* (lines 1–3): what did Messalina do because of her love for Gaius Silius? Make **two** points.

1

 2
 [2]

(c) *neque ... nescius erat* (line 3): what was Silius aware of?

.....
 [1]

(d) *sed intellexit ... esse* (lines 3–5): why do you think Silius chose to continue the affair?

.....

 [2]

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5

What makes this such a vivid description of the affair between Messalina and Silius?

In your answer you may wish to consider:

- the increasingly bold actions of Messalina;
- the way Tacitus describes Silius responding.

[8]

[illegible]

3 Read the passage and answer the questions.

exim Calpurnia (id alteri paelici nomen), ubi datum est secretum, ad genua Caesaris provoluta nupsisse Messalinam Silio exclamat; altera paelice haec confirmante, Calpurnia cieri Narcissum postulat. qui 'discidiumne tuum' inquit 'novisti? nam matrimonium Silii vidit populus et senatus et milites; ac nisi celeriter agis, tenet urbem maritus.'

Tacitus, *Messalina*, lines 35–41

- (a) *exim Calpurnia ... haec confirmante* (lines 1–2): how did Claudius find out that Messalina had married Silius?

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..... [2]

- (b) Pick out and translate the **Latin** word in line 3 which Narcissus used to suggest that Claudius' marriage was over.

Latin word:

English translation:

[2]

- (c) *ac nisi ... maritus* (line 4): according to Narcissus, what would happen if Claudius did not act on his advice?

.....

..... [2]

4 Read the passage and answer the question.

atque interim, tribus omnino comitantibus – tam repens erat solitudo – postquam per urbem pedibus ivit, vehiculo, quo purgamenta hortorum eripiuntur, Ostiensem viam intrat. nullam misericordiam civibus commovit quia flagitiorum deformitas praevalebat.

Tacitus, *Messalina*, lines 49–53

How does Tacitus show the terrible situation Messalina was in?

Make **two** points, each referring to the **Latin**.

1

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[4]

5 Read the passage and answer the question.

quod ubi Narcissus audivit et languescere iram redire amorem vidit, timebat, si moraretur, propinquam noctem et uxorii cubiculi memoriam; igitur prorumpit denuntiatque centurionibus et tribuno, qui aderat, exsequi caedem: ita imperatorem iubere. missus quoque unus e libertis: is raptim in hortos praegressus repperit Messalinam, humi fusam.

Translation:

When Narcissus heard this and saw that the emperor's anger was declining and his love was returning, he feared, if he were to delay, the approaching night and the memory of his wife's bed; therefore he rushed out and ordered the centurions and the tribune, who was present, to carry out the execution. He said that the emperor was ordering this. One of the freedmen was also sent: he quickly went on ahead into the gardens and found Messalina stretched out on the ground.

Tacitus, *Messalina*, lines 73–79

How does Tacitus, by his style of writing, make this a vivid and dramatic passage?

Make **two** points, each referring to the **Latin**.

1

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[4]

6 Read the passage and answer the questions.

in secessu solum balinei tempus studiis eximebatur (cum dico 'balinei', de interioribus loquor; nam dum destringitur tergiturque, audiebat aliquid aut dictabat). in itinere quasi solutus ceteris curis, huic uni vacabat: ad latus notarius cum libro et pugillaribus, cuius manus hieme manicis muniebantur, ut ne caeli quidem asperitas ullum studii tempus eriperet.

5

Pliny, *A day in the life of Pliny the Elder*, lines 13–19

- (a) *in secessu ... eximebatur* (line 1): how does this show Pliny the Elder's dedication to his studies?

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..... [2]

- (b) *cum dico ... dictabat* (lines 1–2): what do you think Pliny the Younger felt about his uncle here? Give a reason for your answer.

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..... [2]

- (c) *ut ne caeli quidem ... eriperet* (lines 4–5): why did Pliny the Elder's secretary wear sleeves when he was travelling with him?

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..... [2]

7 Read the passage and answer the question.

qua ex causa Romae quoque sella vehebatur. repeto me correptum ab eo, quod ambulare: 'poteras' inquit 'has horas non perdere'; nam perire omne tempus arbitrabatur, quod studiis non impenderetur. vale.

Pliny, *A day in the life of Pliny the Elder*, lines 20–23

Translate this passage into English.

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..... [5]

You should support your answer with a range of references to the texts you have read, and you may include passages printed on the question paper. **[10]**

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