

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Friday 16 May 2025 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) Latin

J282/03 Prose Literature B

**Time allowed: 1 hour
plus your additional time allowance**

**DO NOT USE:
a dictionary**

Please write clearly in black ink.

Centre number

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Candidate number

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First name(s) _____

Last name _____

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



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 (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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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' (lines 1–2): what do we learn about Messalina here?**

_____ **[2]**

- (b) 'nam ... potiretur' (lines 2–5): what did Messalina do because of her love for Gaius Silius? Make TWO points.**

1 _____

2 _____

_____ **[2]**

(c) 'neque ... nescius erat' (lines 5–6): what was Silius aware of?

[1]

(d) 'sed intellexit ... esse' (lines 6–8): why do you think Silius chose to continue the affair?

[2]

2* Read the passage and answer the question.

**illa non furtim sed multis cum comitibus
ventitat domum, egredienti adhaeret, dat opes
honoresque; postremo servi, liberti, paratus
principis apud adulterum saepe videbantur. at
Claudius matrimonii sui ignarus. iam Messalina 5
propter facilitatem adulteriorum ad novas
libidines versa est. Silius, sive fatali insania
an ipsa pericula remedium imminantium
periculorum ratus, abrumpi dissimulationem
urgebat: quippe non exspectandum, dum 10
princeps senesceret.**

Tacitus, 'Messalina', lines 8–17

**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.**

**You should refer to the LATIN and discuss Tacitus'
use of language. [8]**

[illegible]

[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.’

5

Tacitus, ‘Messalina’, lines 35–41

- (a) ‘exim Calpurnia ... haec confirmante’ (lines 1–4): how did Claudius find out that Messalina had married Silius?**

[2]

- (b) Pick out and translate the LATIN word in line 5 which Narcissus used to suggest that Claudius’ marriage was over. [2]**

Latin word: _____

English translation: _____

- (c) ‘ac nisi ... maritus’ (line 7): 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.

5

Tacitus, 'Messalina', lines 49–53

**How does Tacitus show the terrible situation
Messalina was in?**

Make TWO points, each referring to the LATIN.

1 _____

2 _____

[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.**

5

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 _____

2 _____

[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' (lines 1–2): how does this show Pliny the Elder's dedication to his studies?**

[2]

- (b) 'cum dico ... dictabat' (lines 2–4): what do you think Pliny the Younger felt about his uncle here? Give a reason for your answer.**

[2]

(c) 'ut ne caeli quidem ... eriperet' (lines 7–8): why did Pliny the Elder's secretary wear sleeves when he was travelling with him?

[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.

5

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

Translate this passage into English.

[5]

8* 'Tacitus portrays Messalina and Silius as equally to blame for their downfall.'

To what extent do you agree?

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]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

EXTRA ANSWER SPACE

If you need extra space use these lined pages. You must write the question numbers clearly in the margin.

[illegible]

[illegible]



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