



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Latin
Higher Level

Monday 22 June Afternoon 2:00 – 5:00

400 marks

1. Answer **either** Section A **or** Section B.

[75]

A. Translate into Latin.

When the Gauls saw a messenger walking to the top of the hill, they discovered a secret road. One of the Gauls was chosen to climb by this road. At night, the rest of the Gauls followed him. They advanced so silently that they did not wake up the Roman guards. However, the geese of Rome, which were sacred to Juno, heard the Gauls. All of the geese made a noise and woke up Manlius, the leader of the Romans. Manlius ordered his soldiers to resist the Gauls. The Romans threw rocks and weapons onto the Gauls and finally conquered them.

Gauls: Galli, -orum (m.) secret: occultus, -a, -um goose: anser, anseris (m.)

OR

B. Read the following passage and answer, in English, **all** the questions which follow.

(Cicero tells the story of the shepherd Gyges, originally told by Plato)

Olim magnae aquae hiatum longum in terra fecerunt. Gyges in illum hiatum descendit et ibi aeneum equum invenit, cuius in lateribus portae erant. Quibus apertis, corpus hominis mortui vidit anulumque aureum in manu; quem, ut detraxit, ipse induit; tum in concilium pastorum se recepit. Ibi cum anulum ad palmam convertisset, a nullo videbatur, ipse autem omnia videbat; Gyges rursus apparuit, cum in locum anulum invertisset. Itaque hac oportunitate anuli usus, reginae stuprum intulit eaque adiutrice regem occidit, sustulit quos obstare arbitrabatur, nec in his eum criminibus quisquam potuit videre. Sic repente anuli beneficio rex factus est Lydiae.

Hunc igitur ipsum anulum si habeat sapiens, nihil plus sibi licere putet peccare, quam si non haberet; honesta enim a bonis viris, non occulta quaeruntur. Atque hoc loco philosophi quidam dicunt illam fabulam, prolatam a Platone, fictam esse. Negant id fieri posse.

hiatus, -us (m.): opening.	aeneus, -a, -um: of bronze.	anulus, -i (m.): ring.
concilium, -i (n.): assembly.	stuprum, -i (n.): disgrace.	adiutrix, adiutricis (f.): assistant.
beneficium, -i (n.): advantage.	Lydia, -ae (f.): Lydia (a country in Asia Minor.)	
pecco, -are: I sin, do wrong.	occultus, -a, -um: secret.	Plato, Platonis (m.): Plato.

- (i) What made the opening in the ground? (4)
- (ii) Describe the horse which Gyges discovered. (6)
- (iii) Where did Gyges find the golden ring? (6)
- (iv) What did Gyges do with the ring when he found it? (4)
- (v) What happened when Gyges turned the ring towards the palm of his hand? (8)
- (vi) What happened when Gyges turned the ring back into place? (4)
- (vii) What **three** actions did Gyges carry out by using the ring? (12)
- (viii) What position did Gyges achieve from the advantage of the ring? (4)
- (ix) What does Cicero say would happen if a wise person were to have such a ring? (8)
- (x) What does Cicero believe about good men? (7)
- (xi) According to Cicero, why do some philosophers reject this story? (7)
- (xii) What is your opinion of Gyges? Explain your answer with reference to the story. (5)

2. Translate into English **one** passage from Section A and **one** passage from Section B. [130]

A. (i) *(Jupiter sends the ghost of Anchises to tell Aeneas to follow the advice of the elder Nautes. Anchises explains to him what will happen when he reaches Italy and how the Sibyl will help.)*

“imperio Iovis huc venio, qui classibus ignem
depulit, et caelo tandem miseratus ab alto est.
consiliis pare, quae nunc pulcherrima Nautes
dat senior; lectos iuvenes, fortissima corda,
defer in Italiam. gens dura atque aspera cultu
debellanda tibi Latium est. ... huc casta Sibylla
nigrarum multo pecudum te sanguine ducet.
tum genus omne tuum et quae dentur moenia disces.”
dixerat et tenues fugit ceu fumus in auras.

Virgil (65)

depello, -ere: I drive off.	miseror, -ari: I take pity.	senior: “aged”.
lectus, -a, -um: chosen.	cor, cordis (n.): heart.	defero, deferre: I lead.
cultus, -us (m.): culture.	debello, -are: I defeat.	Latium, -i (n.): Latium.
castus, -a, -um: holy.	niger, -a, -um: black.	pecus, pecudis (f.): sheep.
		ceu: just like.

OR

A. (ii) *(Ovid cries while describing the grief in his house on the night before he went into exile.)*

cum subit illius tristissima noctis imago,
quae mihi supremum tempus in urbe fuit,
cum repeto noctem, qua tot mihi cara reliqui,
labitur ex oculis nunc quoque gutta meis.
iam prope lux aderat, qua me discedere Caesar
finibus extremae iusserat Ausoniae.
femina virque meo pueri quoque funere maerent,
inque domo lacrimas angulus omnis habet.
si licet exemplis in parvis grandibus uti,
haec facies Troiae, cum caperetur, erat.

Ovid (65)

subit = ‘comes to mind’.	imago, -inis (f.): memory.	supremus, -a, -um: final.
repeto, -ere: I recall.	gutta, -ae (f.): tear.	prope: nearly.
Ausonia, -ae (f.): Italy.	maereo, -ere: I mourn, grieve.	angulus, -i (m.): corner.
grandis, -is, -e: grandiose, grand.	facies, -ei (f.): appearance, look.	

B. (i) (*The decemvirs organise a religious procession in honour of Juno.*)

Statim ad aliud sacrificium divae ab decemviris edicta dies: a templo Apollinis boves feminae candidae duae porta duplici in urbem ductae sunt; post eas duo signa cupressea Iunonis Reginae portabantur; tum septem et viginti virgines, longam indutae vestem, carmen in Iunonem Reginam cantantes ibant. Virginum ordinem sequebantur decemviri gerentes coronas laureas praetextatique. Ab alia porta in forum venerunt. In foro pompa constitit, et in manibus restem tenentes, virgines sonum vocis pulsu pedum modulantes incesserunt. Inde templum Iunonis Reginae perrectum et ibi duae boves ab decemviris immolatae et signa cupressea in templum inlata.

Livy (65)

decemviri, -um (m. pl.): decemvirs (magistrates). edico, -ere: I decree. duplex, duplicis: double.
signum, -i (n.): statue. cupresseus, -a, -um: cypress, made of cypress wood.
indutus, -a, -um: clothed in. laureus, -a, -um: laurel, made of a laurel tree.
praetextatus, -a, -um: wearing a toga with a purple stripe. pompa, -ae (f.): procession.
consisto, -ere: I stop, halt. restis, -is (f.): rope. sonus, -i (m.): sound.
modulor, -ari: I keep time to. pergo: I advance. immolo, -are: I offer as a sacrifice.

OR

B. (ii) (*Cicero praises Marcellus for how he dealt with spoils after defeating Syracuse.*)

Marcellus, cum tam claram urbem vi copiisque cepisset, non putavit ad laudem populi Romani hoc pertinere, urbis huius pulchritudinem delere et extinguere. Itaque aedificiis omnibus, publicis privatis, sacris profanis, sic pepercit, quasi ad ea defendenda cum exercitu, non oppugnanda venisset. In ornatu urbis habuit victoriae rationem, habuit humanitatis. Propter victoriam multa ornamenta Romam deportare volebat, propter humanitatem non aperte exspoliare putabat urbem, quam conservare voluisset. In hac partitione ornatus non plus victoria Marcelli populo Romano appetivit, quam humanitas Marcelli Syracusanis reservavit. Ea, Romam quae adportata sunt, in locis publicis videmus. Marcellus nihil domo, nihil in hortis, nihil in villa posuit.

Cicero (65)

laus, laudis (f.): praise, glory. pertineo, -ere: I apply to, suit. pulchritudo, -inis (f.): beauty.
privatus, -a, -um: private. profanus, -a, -um: common, not holy. ornatus, -us (m.): decoration.
habeo rationem (+genitive): I take account of, have regard for. humanitas, -atis (f.): humanity.
exspolio, -are: I plunder, pillage. partitio, -onis (f.): division. appeto, -ere: I achieve.
Syracusani, -orum (m.pl.): Syracusans.

A.

(i) Translate into English.

(60)

Romam Fregellanus nuntius, diem noctemque itinere continuato, ingentem attulit terrorem; tumultuosius, quam quod allatam erat, concursus hominum adfingentium vana auditis totam urbem concitat. Ploratus mulierum non ex privatis solum domibus exaudiebatur, sed undique matronae in publicum effusae circa deum delubra discurrunt, crinibus passis aras verrentes, nixae genibus, supinas manus ad caelum ac deos tendentes orantesque ut urbem Romanam e manibus hostium eriperent matresque Romanas et liberos parvos inviolatos servarent. Senatus magistratibus in foro praesto est, si quid consulere velint. Alii accipiunt imperia disceduntque ad suas quisque officiorum partes, alii offerunt se, si quo usus operae sit. Praesidia in arce, in Capitolio, in muris, circa urbem, in monte etiam Albano atque arce Aefulana ponuntur. Inter hunc tumultum Q. Fulvium proconsulem profectum cum exercitu Capua adfertur.

Livy(ii) Answer **any three** of the five questions below. Each question carries ten marks. (30)

(a) Describe the arrangements to defend Rome from Hannibal's attack in Book XXVI.

(b) Discuss how the Carthaginians use deception as a strategy of war in Book XXVI.

(c) Who was Vibius Virrius and what actions does he take in Book XXVI?

(d) Explain the disagreement between Claudius and Fulvius concerning the punishment of the Capuan senators.

(e) Write notes on **any two** of the following:

Seppius Loesius; Bostar & Hanno; Vibellius Taurea; P. Cornelius Scipio.

B.

- (i) Translate into English: (60)

“illum ego per flammās et mille sequentia tela
eripui his umeris medioque ex hoste recepi;
ille meum comitatus iter maria omnia mecum
atque omnes pelagique minas caelique ferebat,
invalidus, vires ultra sortemque senectae.
quin, ut te supplex peterem et tua limina adirem,
idem orans mandata dabat. natique patrisque,
alma, precor, miserere; potes namque omnia, nec te
nequiquam lucis Hecate praefecit Avernīs.
si potuit Manes arcessere coniugis Orpheus,
Threīcia fretus cithara fidibusque canoris;
si fratrem Pollux alterna morte redemit
itque reditque viam totiens – quid Thesea magnum,
quid memorem Alciden? – et mi genus ab Iove summo.”

Virgil

- (ii) Answer **any three** of the five questions below. Each question carries ten marks. (30)
- (a) Do you think that Aeneas is a good leader in Book VI of the *Aeneid*? Explain your answer.
(b) Who was Misenus and how was he honoured in Book VI of the *Aeneid*?
(c) Explain how the Sibyl guides Aeneas in Book VI of the *Aeneid*.
(d) Discuss how Virgil expresses sadness and loss in Book VI of the *Aeneid*.
(e) Write notes on **any two** of the following:

Gorgons; Minos; the rivers in Hades; Venus.

4. Answer parts (i), (ii), and (iii). [30]

- (i) Answer **either** (a) **or** (b):

- (a) Name and explain the case of *arce*, and the forms of the verbs of *decurrentes* and *vidissent* in the following lines:

Quos cum ex arce Capitolioque clivo Publicio in equis decurrentes quidam vidissent,
captum Aventinum conclamaverunt.

- (b) Name and explain the case of *effatus* and *vestigia*, and the mood of *ferant* in the following lines:

sic effatus vestigia pressit
observans, quae signa ferant, quo tendere pergant. (10)

- (ii) Give the principal parts of **any three** of the following verbs: (10)
- cado, traho, scio, fero, sequor.

- (iii) Name the metre of the following line and mark the quantities:

monte decurrens velut amnis imbres (10)

5. Answer **any three** of the six questions below. Each question carries twenty-five marks. [75]

- (i) Discuss how tensions between Octavian and Mark Antony led to the battle of Actium.
- (ii) 'Caligula's reign was characterised by poor administration in Rome and disorder in the provinces.' Discuss this view.
- (iii) Write notes on **any two** of the following:

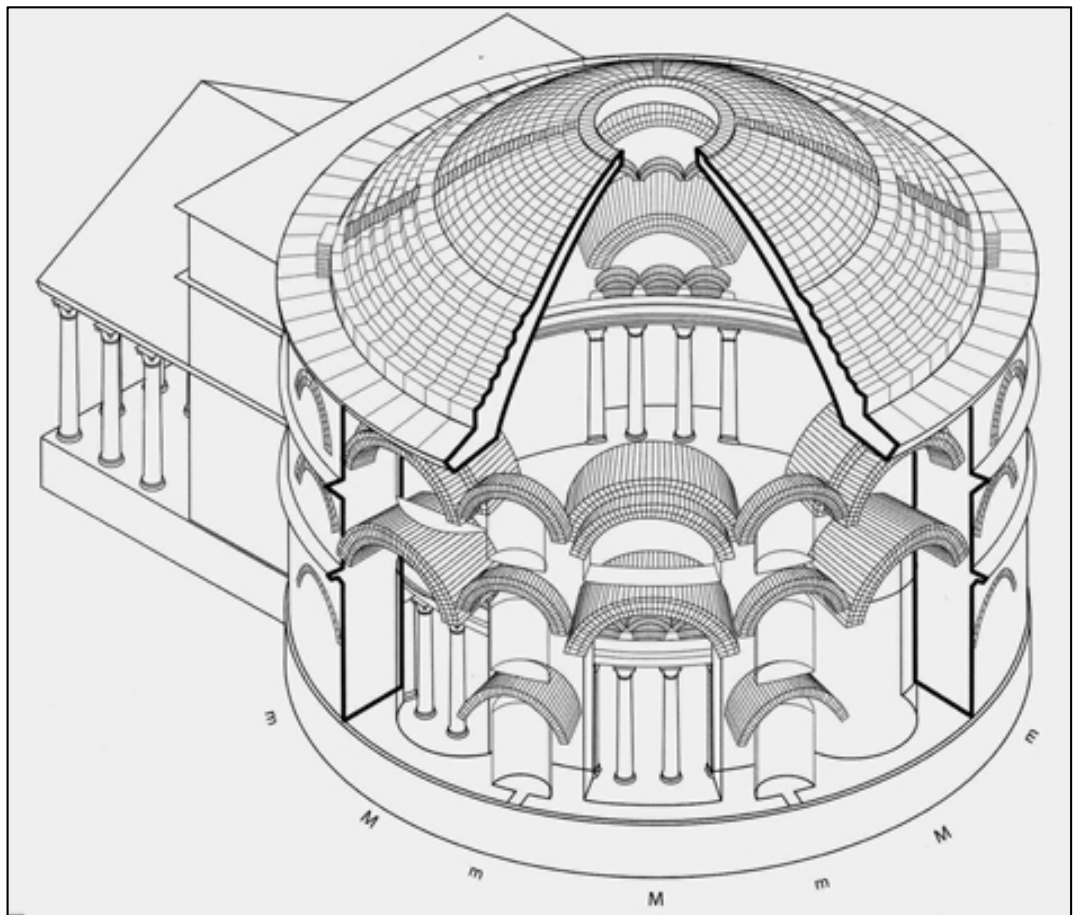
Agrippa; Sejanus; Poppaea Sabina (wife of Nero); Seneca; Nerva.
- (iv) Give an account of the life and works of **either** Livy **or** Virgil. What does this author teach us about the values of ancient Rome?
- (v) 'Roman art contains many examples of scenes from daily life in the ancient world.' Discuss this view, with reference to at least **two** of the following:

wall painting; mosaic; portrait sculpture.
- (vi) Look at Photographs **A**, **B**, and **C**, and answer **two** of the following questions.
 - (a) Name the type of building shown in Photograph **A** and describe its layout, using architectural terms.
 - (b) Photograph **B** shows a cross-section of the Pantheon. Explain why this building is considered a masterpiece of Roman engineering.
 - (c) Name the monument in Photograph **C**. Describe the relief sculptures on this monument and comment on their artistic qualities.

A.



B.



C.



Acknowledgements

Images:

Page 8: Photograph A: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c2/Roman_XXXXXX_in_Orange_2008.jpg

Photograph B: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/hadrians-rome/content-section-2.1>

Page 9: Photograph C: 2: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Trajan's_Column_reliefs.jpg

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Latin

Monday 22 June

Afternoon 2:00 – 5:00