

**2005 VJCL State Finals Certamen  
Upper Level – Round I**

1. *Mantua mē genuit, Calabrī rapuēre, tenet nunc / Parthenope; cecinī pascua rūra ducēs.* What epic poet is believed to have dictated this epitaph in 19 BC from his deathbed in Brundisium? ANS: Vergil (Publius Vergilius Maro)
  - a. *Ducēs* refers to Vergil’s *Aeneid*. To what other works of Vergil do the words *pascua* and *rūra* refer? ANS: Eclogues (Bucolics) and Georgics
2. What name is common to Odysseus’ faithful dog, the all-seeing guardian of Io, and the builder of Jason’s famous ship? ANS: Argus
  - a. What name is common to the Muse of comedy and the “graceful” sister of Aglaea and Euphrosyne? ANS: Thalia
3. In the first poem of Book I of the *Amorēs*, Ovid writes *Pār erat inferior versus; rīsisse Cupīdō / dīcitur atque ūnum surripuisse pedem.* According to this couplet, what is Cupid said to have stolen? ANS: One foot (of the line/meter) (v. supra, *ūnum ... pedem*)
  - a. According to this couplet, what besides stealing that foot is Cupid said to have done? ANS: Laughed (v. supra, *rīsisse*)
4. Which tense of the participle is often used in poetry to show purpose, intention or readiness? ANS: Future (active)
  - a. Using a future active participle, say in Latin: “the dog comes to the kitchen with the intention of eating the food”. ANS: *Canis cibum ēsurus (ēsurā) \* ad/in culinam (per)venit.* \*N.B.: also accept various synonyms for *ēsurus (ēsurā)*: *consūpturus (consūptura) / cēnāturus (cēnātura) / pasturus (pastura) (can also take ablative) / pransurus (pansura) / assūpturus (assūptura)*, BUT NOT *gustāturus (gustātura)* b/c while this means “taste” transitively it appears only to mean “eat” (literally, “to have a snack”) when used intransitively
5. Ptolemy Philadelphus, Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene are the three children of what ambitious couple, one a Roman triumvir, the other an Egyptian queen? ANS: Marcus Antonius (Marc Antony) and Cleopatra (VII)
  - a. BONUS: What son did Cleopatra bear from a previous relationship with Gaius Julius Caesar? ANS: Caesarian / Ptolemy Caesar
6. What current movie, based on a gritty comic book, might have its title translated into Latin as *Urbs Peccatī*? ANS: Sin City
  - a. A *pistor* can be either a baker or what other profession related to wheat and grain? The word for this profession also happens to be the last name of the author of the *Sin City* comic books. ANS: Miller
7. Using the deponent verb *sequor*, say (in Latin) to one person, “Follow me.” ANS: *Mē sequere*
  - a. BONUS: Now, using the verb *capiō* say in Latin, “Do not take the toga away from me, girls!” ANS: *(Ā) mē, puellae, togam capere nolīte! / Nē, puellae, (ā) mē togam capiātis!*

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8. What nephew of Toxeus and Plexippus fought with his uncles after killing the Calydonian Boar because he insisted on giving its precious hide to Atalanta?  
ANS: Meleager
- a. BONUS: The dispute with his uncles ended badly, with Meleager ultimately killing them both. Althea, Meleager's mother, however, did not take this news death well. Specifically, how did Althea avenge the death of her slain brothers? ANS: She tossed the log that was tied to Meleager's life into a fire, causing his death (when Meleager was a newborn, the Fates had appeared to Althea and revealed that a certain log in the fireplace was the key to her son's life)
9. TOSS UP (History): In what narrow mountain pass did Gavius Pontius and the Samnites trap the Roman army in 321 BC, during the Second Samnite War?  
ANS: Caudine Forks / *Furculae Caudinae*
- a. BONUS: When the Roman army was forced to surrender, what humiliation did the soldiers have to suffer? ANS: Passing under a "yoke" (of Samnite spears), stripped of their arms and weapons.
10. If you win this round you will probably leap out of your chair in exultation. The English noun *exultation*, as well as its cognate verb *exult*, derive from the Latin preposition *ex* and what verb meaning "to jump or leap"? ANS: *saliō (salīre, salī / saluī, saltus / -a / -um)*
- a. BONUS: If you were exultantly proud and joyful, you would be *elated*; but please, try not to get too carried away by your glee. Both the English adjective *elated* and its cognate noun *elation* derive from the Latin preposition *ex* and what verb meaning "to bear or carry"? *ferō (ferre, tulī / tetulī, lātus / -a / -um)*
11. What genre did the following authors write in common? Ammianus Marcellinus, Cornelius Nepos, Sallust, Tacitus and Livy? ANS: History
- a. BONUS: What genre do these writers have in common? Perseus, Juvenal and Horace. ANS: Satire (do NOT accept "comedy")
12. Who am I? I am the hero who gave the thugs Periphetes and Sciron (among others) a taste of their own medicine. After those adventures, I arrived in Athens and captured the Bull of Marathon. Luckily my father Aegeus recognized me soon after and saved me from drinking Medea's poison. Eventually, I became his successor to the throne of Athens. Who am I? ANS: Theseus
- a. BONUS: Later in my life, I concocted a rather foolish plan with my pal Pirithous. We decided that each of us would marry a daughter of Zeus. What daughter of Zeus and Leda, who was raised in Sparta, did we kidnap when she was only 12? Another fellow would also carry this girl away several years later because she was considered the most beautiful woman in the world. ANS: Helen

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13. What was the primary job function of a *lanista*? ANS: To train gladiators (for fighting in the gladiatorial games)
- a. BONUS: Hopefully, the *lanista* did their job particularly well when training the fighters known as *andabatae*. What specific disadvantage did an *andabata* have to overcome when fighting? ANS: The fighter could not see (had to fight while blind-folded)
14. At various times, Coronis, Marpessa, Cyrene, Hyacinthus, Cassandra and Daphne were all objects of what Olympian deity's affection? ANS: (Phoebus) Apollo
- a. BONUS: Apollo's love affair with Coronis ended disastrously when the crow tattled on her affair with a mortal man. In a jealous rage, Apollo killed Coronis but snatched their unborn infant son from her body. Who was this boy who ultimately became the world's greatest physician and the god of medicine? ANS: Asclepius (Aesculapius)
15. Which of the following phrases is an example of the ablative of "time within which" construction? *prīmā aestāte*, *tribus diēbus*, *multōs annōs*, *posterā hōrā*  
ANS: *tribus diēbus* (within/in three days)
- a. Now translate into English the other three time-related expressions listed:
- i. *prīmā aestāte* – early in the summer / at the beginning of summer / (at/in/on) the first summer
- ii. *multōs annōs* – for many years
- iii. *posterā hōrā* – (at/in/on) the following/next/subsequent/ensuing hour
16. What Olympian goddess lent a chariot drawn by winged dragons to a man named Triptolemus, who flew through the air sowing corn and teaching people how to cultivate the fields? ANS: Demeter (Ceres)
- a. BONUS: Demeter helped Triptolemus and several other mortals when she wandered the earth after Persephone's abduction. What city in particular showed her great hospitality and became famous throughout the ancient world as the site of Demeter's mysteries? ANS: Eleusis
17. Wealthy Roman men had a type of slave who would walk behind the master and quietly prompt him in case he had forgotten the name of anyone who greeted him. What is the name for such a slave? ANS: *Nōmenclātor(ēs)*
- a. BONUS: To our eyes, Roman masters must have resembled NBA superstars with their constant posse of attendants accompanying their every move in public. What was the name for the posse of slaves who cleared the way in front of their master if he chose to travel by foot that day? ANS? *Anteambulō(nēs)*

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18. Translate the following Latin sentence into English: *Est mīrābile audītū!* ANS: “It is wonderful/remarkable/extraordinary/amazing to hear!” (ablative supine of respect)
- a. BONUS: Now translate this sentence into Latin, using only FOUR alliterative words: “Vitellius came to see the cow.” ANS: *Vitellius vaccam vīsum vēnit.*
19. Who am I? I am a gentleman of Verona, and an accomplished Neoteric lyric poet. While I enjoy sitting around writing clever little lines of poetry with my buddy Licinius Calvus, nothing brings me greater joy (or anguish) than my girlfriend Clodia. Who am I? ANS: (Gaius Valerius) Catullus
- a. BONUS: Scholars classify Catullus as an Alexandrian or Neoteric poet because of his short but learned and elegant writing style. What librarian and poet, whose poems Catullus mentions translating in Carmen 65 for his friend Hortalus, is the “father” of the Alexandrian school of poetry? ANS: Callimachus (also accept Battiadēs but in this case, clarify that this was an alternate, literary name for Callimachus derived from the name of Cyrene’s founder, Battus)
20. As this round comes to a close, you may want to keep in mind South Carolina’s state motto, which translates into English as, “While I breathe, I hope.” Give the Latin for this motto. ANS: *dum spirō sperō*
- a. BONUS: In recognition of their recent championship in college basketball, it seems appropriate to ask you about the Latin motto of North Carolina. What is this Latin motto, which translates into English as “to be rather than to seem”? ANS: *esse quam viderī*