

2004 VJCL Convention Open Certamen

Round I

1. TOSS UP: Welcome to the VJCL Open Certamen. Since you are playing in a *certamen*, you ought to know that the Latin word *certamen* means what in English? ANS: struggle, contest, match, rivalry, battle, contention (NOT fight)
 - a. BONUS: Now that you have answered the first question of the certamen, please translate the adjective “open” into Latin as it is used in the phrase “open *certamen*”. ANS: *apertum, manifestum, candidum, publicum, integrum*
2. TOSS UP: What month of the year takes its English name from the Roman god of beginnings? ANS: January
 - a. BONUS: Who was this Roman god of beginnings *and* what was unique about his appearance? ANS: Janus, and he had two faces (NOT heads)
3. TOSS UP: Identify three of the five major Romance languages. ANS: (student gives any three of) French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, and Portuguese.
 - a. BONUS: The name “Latin” itself derives from the name of what geographic region in west-central Italy that was near ancient Rome? ANS: Latium
4. TOSS UP: What Olympian goddess turned the girl Arachne into a spider? ANS? Athena (Minerva)
 - a. BONUS: What king of Phrygia received donkey ears as punishment for misjudging a musical contest between the gods Pan and Apollo? ANS: Midas
5. TOSS UP: *Respondē Latine: Quid est septem et trēs?* ANS: *decem* (7 and 3 = 10)
 - a. BONUS: *Respondē Latine: Quid est vigintī minus duō?* ANS: *duodevigintī* (20 less two = 18)
6. TOSS UP: In 260 B.C., Rome won its first major naval victory at Mylae against what rival nation? ANS: Carthage
 - a. BONUS: In which Punic War did the Roman general Quintus Fabius Maximus earn the nickname *Cunctator* for the use of his delaying tactics against the Carthaginians? ANS: Second Punic War
7. TOSS UP: Latin adjectives must agree with the nouns they describe in case, number and what one other way? ANS: Gender
 - a. BONUS: Make the adjective *pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum* (meaning “beautiful”) grammatically agree with the noun *poēta* in the following Latin sentence.
Audiō verba poetae _____. ANS: *pulchrī* (masculine, genitive singular)
8. TOSS UP: What young shepherd faced the difficult task of choosing “the fairest” among the goddesses Hera, Athena and Aphrodite? ANS: Paris
 - a. BONUS: Of the three goddesses vying for the title of “fairest,” which one bribed Paris with the love of Helen, the world’s most beautiful mortal woman? ANS: Aphrodite

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9. TOSS UP: What Roman served as dictator for sixteen days only? He rescued the trapped Roman army from the Aequians and then famously relinquished his office and returned a life of farming? ANS: (Lucius Quinctius) Cincinnatus
- a. What Roman historian told the story of Cincinnatus and many other famous heroes of the early Republic in a voluminous 142-book history of Rome written entirely on wax tablets? ANS: Livy (Titus Livius)
10. TOSS UP: Which of these words is NOT derived from the same Latin root word? *Scribble, prescription, scrub, describe.* ANS: scrub
- a. What is the meaning of the Latin verb *scribō, scribere* from which *scribble, prescription* and *describe* derive? ANS: (to) write