

PROBAT¹

LATIN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION

LEVELS C1 and C2 (*Proficient User*) – May 2nd, 2022

CANDIDATE:

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME*

PREFERRED NAME*
(if applicable)

MIDDLE NAME

CLASS

* Write down your FIRST NAME as it appears on your passport and/or birth certificate, even if you should go by a PREFERRED NAME which differs from that.

¹Examination protocols of British and American academic institutions have inspired the language of the examination instructions featured in this PROBAT version.

EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

This examination paper comprises:

1. 2 sections: SECTION A and SECTION B
2. 8 total pages

NOTE: Before beginning, check that you have all the pages. Consult the examiner/s, if you do not.

Read the instructions below on what you are expected to do for each section. You have 1 ½ hours to complete this examination. You may use a dictionary. Answer all questions. Write in blue or black ink.

SECTION A comprises:

1. (on page 3) a Latin excerpt taken from Seneca's *Troades*. Read it carefully.
Note: A brief Introduction ("Context") precedes the text.
2. (on pages 4-6) a total of 12 questions based on the text. These aim to test both your comprehension of the text and your overall Latin proficiency. As you answer each question, place an "x" by the option you regard to be the correct one, in the manner illustrated below:

(Sample question): Can you identify the language in which the text is written?

- A. Archaic Latin
- B. Classical Latin
- C. Silver Latin **x**
- D. Vulgar Latin

NOTE: Keep in mind that only one of the four given options is the correct one.

SECTION B comprises:

1. a table for you to fill out on page 8

NOTE: Your FINAL GRADE depends EXCLUSIVELY on the correctness of the answers you provide in SECTION B. It is important, therefore, that you review the instructions found on pages 7-8 on how to fill out the final table in that section. Go to pages 7-8 now and read the instructions carefully before beginning the examination.

SECTION A

SECTION A

CONTEXT

Having conquered Troy, the victorious Achaeans proceed to divvy up the booty, which includes the Trojan women. Achilles' only son Pyrrhus (= "Neoptolemus") lays a claim to Priam's daughter Polyxena, in order that she may be sacrificed on the tomb of his father, whose prowess in battle, Pyrrhus contends, secured the victory of the Achaeans over the Trojans. Polyxena, moreover, had been betrothed to Achilles, while he was still alive. Agamemnon, leader of the Achaeans, is reluctant to accede to Pyrrhus' demand. Pyrrhus then rebukes Agamemnon for the sacrifice of his own daughter Iphigenia. Agamemnon goes on to answer Pyrrhus' reproaches.



"The Sacrifice of Polyxena" by The Timiades Painter, or by a member of the Tyrrhenian Group (British Museum, London, U.K.)

1. TEXT

Agamemnon

Iuvenile vitium est regere non posse impetum; 250
aetatis alios fervor hic primus rapit,
Pyrrhum paternus, spiritus quondam trucidis
minasque tumidi lentus Aeacidae² tuli:
quo plura possis, plura patienter feras.
Quid caede dira nobiles clari ducis 255
aspergis umbras? noscere hoc primum decet,
quid facere victor debeat, victus pati.
violenta nemo imperia continuit diu,
moderata durant: quoque Fortuna altius
evexit ac levavit humanas opes, 260
hoc se magis suppressere felicem decet
variosque casus tremere metuentem deos
nimum faventes. magna momento obrui
vincendo didici. Troia nos tumidos facit
nimum ac feroces? stamus hoc Danaï loco, 265
unde illa cecidit, fateor, aliquando impotens
regno ac superbus altius memet tuli;
sed fregit illos spiritus haec quae dare
potuisset aliis causa, Fortunae favor,

² Aeacidae = Achilles

tu me superbum, Priame, tu timidum facis. 270
ego esse quicquam sceptrum nisi vano putem
fulgore tectum nomen et falso comam
vincolo decentem? casus haec rapiet brevis,
nec mille forsitan ratibus aut annis decem:
non omnibus fortuna tam lenta imminet. 275
equidem fatebor (pace dixisse hoc tua,
Argiva tellus, liceat) affligi Phrygas
vincique volui: ruere et aequari solo
etiam arcuissem. sed regi frenis nequit
et ira et ardens hostis et victoria 280
commissa nocti quicquid indignum aut ferum
cuiquam videri potuit, hoc fecit dolor
tenebraeque, per quas ipse se inritat furor,
gladiisque felix, cuius infecti semel
vecors libido est. quicquid eversae potest 285
superesse Troiae, maneat: exactum satis
poenarum et ultra est. regia ut virgo occidat
tumuloque donum detur et cineres riget
et facinus atrox caedis ut thalamos vocent?
non patiar. In me culpa cunctorum redit: 290
qui non vetat peccare, cum possit, iubet.

(Excerpted from Seneca, *Troades* 250-291)

2. QUESTIONS

1. The function of Agamemnon's speech is

- A. to exhort
- B. to explain
- C. to argue
- D. to narrate

2. One of the passages quoted below does NOT constitute an "analepsis" (= "literary flashback"). Identify it.

- A. *spiritus quondam trucis / minasque tumidi lentus Aeacidae tuli*
- B. *quoque Fortuna altius / evexit ac levavit humanas opes, / hoc se magis suppressere felicem decet*
- C. *aliquando impotens / regno ac superbus altius memet tuli*
- D. *hoc fecit dolor / tenebraeque*

3. One of the verses quoted below expresses the central idea of Agamemnon's speech. Identify it.

- A. *Iuvenile vitium est regere non posse impetum* (v. 249)
- B. *quo plura possis, plura patienter feras* (v. 254)
- C. *tu me superbum, Priame, tu timidum facis* (v. 270)
- D. *qui non vetat peccare, cum possit, iubet* (291)

4. In which of the following passages does Agamemnon adopt the perspective of the vanquished?

- A. *tu me superbum, Priame, tu timidum facis*
- B. *et ira et ardens hostis et victoria / commissa nocti*
- C. *pace dixisse hoc tua, / Argiva tellus, liceat*
- D. *non omnibus fortuna tam lenta imminet*

5. Agamemnon's words induce us to infer that "anger" is

- A. a vice and an excess
- B. a justifiable reaction
- C. the moving force behind great deeds
- D. unnatural

6. Agamemnon believes that, in war,

- A. the weak pay the highest price.
- B. winners dictate the rules.
- C. victory must be pursued at every cost.
- D. Luck (= "Fortuna") is of paramount importance in determining victory.

7. One of the lines below makes oblique reference to Agamemnon's past guilt vis-à-vis his family. Identify it.

- A. *regia ut virgo occidat / [...] et facinus atrox caedis ut thalamos vocent*
- B. *affligi Phrygas / vincique volui: ruere et aequari solo / etiam arcuissem*
- C. *exactum satis / poenarum et ultra est*
- D. *in me culpa cunctorum redit*

8. In the excerpt above, the conjunction *sed* (v. 268) is used to contrast the following sets of concepts, namely,

- A. *superbus - spiritus*
- B. *regno - Fortuna favor*
- C. *memet - illos*
- D. *tuli - dare*

9. *Haec* (v. 273) refers to

- A. *sceptra*
- B. *comam*
- C. *fortuna*
- D. *ratibus*

10. In the excerpt above, the word *impetum* (v. 250) is used to mean

- A. assault
- B. enthusiasm
- C. advance
- D. fury

11. A “semantic field” denotes a set of words related in meaning. One of the semantic fields listed below includes an extraneous element. Identify it.

- A. *tumidos, feroces, impotens*
- B. *caedes, hostis, victoria*
- C. *noscere, didici, fateor*
- D. *pati, affligi, poenarum*

12. In the eyes of Seneca, which emperor is the most notorious for his *ira*?

- A. Nero
- B. Claudius
- C. Caligula
- D. Tiberius

(You have reached the end of SECTION A. Review the answers you provided in SECTION A before inserting them in the table in SECTION B, as per the instructions provided on page 7-8.)

SECTION B

Follow these instructions on how to fill out the final table in this section (page 8):

1. Insert the capital letter matching the correct answer for each of the 12 questions in SECTION A.

Example: if, in SECTION A, you determined that the correct answer to question number 1 is represented by the option indicated by the capital letter “C”, in the final table of SECTION B (page 8), insert the capital letter “C”, as shown in the sample table below:

QUESTION NUMBER	ANSWER	POINTS
1	C	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
TOTAL POINTS		
SCORE*		/100
LEVEL ATTAINED	* Minimal score to qualify for C1 certification = 60/100 * Minimal score to qualify for C2 certification = 75/100	

2. Fill out exclusively the boxes in the “ANSWER” column.
3. For the purposes of this examination, feel free to use SECTION A of the paper as your working “notebook”. In SECTION A, write whatever notes might aid you in your comprehension and edit your answers as you see fit.
4. Beware that the examiners shall assign you a grade exclusively on the basis of the accuracy of the answers you provide in the table in SECTION B.

Fill out the table below with your final answers. Be advised that the examiners shall regard any evidence of the insertion of a correction in any of the boxes in the "ANSWER" column, as evidence that you have answered incorrectly.

Factor in the time to fill out the table with the necessary care, therefore, and avoid making transcription errors.

QUESTION NUMBER	ANSWER	POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
TOTAL POINTS		
SCORE*		/100
LEVEL ATTAINED	* Minimal score to qualify for C1 certification = 60/100 * Minimal score to qualify for C2 certification = 75/100	

(You have reached the end of this examination paper.)