



National
Qualifications
2026

X843/77/11

**Latin
Literary Appreciation**

MONDAY, 1 JUNE
9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Total marks — 60

Attempt **EITHER** section 1 **OR** section 2.

Attempt **ALL** questions in your chosen section.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

You must leave your answer booklet on your desk; if you do not, you could lose all the marks for this paper.



* X 8 4 3 7 7 1 1 *

SECTION 1 — LETTERS AND LETTER-WRITING — 60 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Consider Letter 1 by Plautus (Prescribed Text, page 03).

1. (a) Refer to lines 1–8 (*ut opinor . . . scripsit*).
 - (i) In this scene from a Roman comedy, Pseudolus is reading a letter to Calidorus. Who wrote this letter? 1
 - (ii) Pseudolus makes fun of the handwriting. Explain the humour in these lines. 3
- (b) Refer to the whole of Letter 1.
What can we learn from this letter about literacy and letter-writing in the Roman world? 3

Consider Letter 3 by Cicero (Prescribed Text, page 04).

2. Refer to lines 1–4 of Letter 3 (*in omnibus . . . consequere*).
Cicero is offering support to his young friend Trebatius. What do these lines tell us about patron/client relationships in Rome? Support your answer with reference to the text. 3

Consider Letter 4 by Cicero (Prescribed Text, page 05).

3. Refer to the whole of Letter 4.
Cicero's young friend Trebatius is feeling homesick. Identify and comment on the effectiveness of language techniques that Cicero uses to encourage him. 6

Consider Letter 13 by Seneca (Prescribed Text, page 10).

4. Refer to lines 11–17 (Certainly . . . yourself).
In these lines Seneca offers advice to Lucilius on choosing friends wisely. Do you think this advice is still relevant today? Support your answer with reference to the text. 2

Refer to Letter 14 by Pliny (Prescribed Text, page 11).

5. Refer to the whole of Letter 14.
In this letter Pliny thinks he is being very fair and inclusive. Do you agree? Support your answer with reference to the text. 3

Questions (continued)

Consider Letter 16 by Seneca (Prescribed Text, pages 12–14).

6. (a) Refer to lines 5–11 (*itaque . . . perstant*).
Seneca uses the setting of a dinner party to criticise attitudes towards enslaved people. Explain the ways in which he does this. 4
- (b) Refer to lines 54–58 (*quotiens . . . Diogenes*).
Explain ways in which the historical examples given by Seneca support his argument in these lines. 3

Consider Letter 26 by Cicero (Prescribed Text, page 18).

7. Refer to the whole of the letter.
Cicero is missing his family and home. Analyse ways in which he uses language to convey his unhappiness. 6

Consider Letter 28 by Pliny (Prescribed Text, pages 19–20).

8. (a) Refer to lines 5–11 (*summum . . . optimus*).
Pliny is writing to Hispulla, his wife's aunt. In your opinion, would Pliny's wife have been pleased by Pliny's comments? Refer to the text to support your answer. 4
- (b) Refer to lines 12–18 (*his ex . . . solebas*).
What evidence is there in these lines that Hispulla would approve of Pliny's letter? 2
9. Discuss the contribution of the letters you have read in enhancing our understanding of politics and ideas in the Roman world.
In your answer you should make reference to the texts of letters by at least **three** of the prescribed letter-writers (Vindolanda Tablets = one 'letter-writer'). 20

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OR

SECTION 2 — OVID AND LATIN LOVE POETRY — 60 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Consider Poem 1 by Ovid (Prescribed Text, page 21).

10. (a) Refer to lines 1–2 (
- arma . . . modis*
-).

Ovid starts the poem with the word *arma*. Is this an unexpected opening for a love poem? Explain your response.

2

- (b) Refer to lines 5–12 (
- quis tibi . . . lyram*
-).

Explain how his references to the gods support his argument.

3

Consider Poem 4 by Ovid (Prescribed Text, page 23).

11. Refer to lines 1–6 (
- aestus . . . dies*
-).

Ovid is anticipating an afternoon with his girlfriend. Analyse ways in which he uses language to set the scene.

6

Consider Poem 6 by Ovid (Prescribed Text, pages 25–26).

12. Refer to lines 11–19 (What I . . . a snood).

Ovid compares his girlfriend to mythological women. Do you think she would be pleased with these comparisons? Support your response with reference to the text.

3

Consider Poem 7 by Ovid (Prescribed Text, pages 26–27).

13. Refer to lines 19–28 (
- ille . . . opus*
-).

Ovid claims that lovers should be like soldiers. In what ways does he demonstrate this in these lines?

4

Refer to Poem 10 by Ovid (Prescribed Text, pages 28–29).

14. (a) Refer to lines 7–14 (
- mortale . . . valet*
-).

In what ways does Ovid support his claim that being a poet is a worthy career?

3

- (b) Refer to lines 39–42 (
- pascitur . . . superstes erit*
-).

Explain what Ovid means in these lines.

2

Questions (continued)

Consider Poem 11 by Ovid (Prescribed Text, page 29).

15. Refer to lines 17–28 (And now . . . innocence).

What do these lines reveal about the imbalance of power between an enslaved woman and a free man? Support your response with reference to the text.

2

Consider Poem 18 by Catullus (Prescribed Text, page 33).

16. Refer to lines 9–16 (*omnia . . . pote*).

Catullus is struggling to get over his break up with Lesbia. Explain how Catullus uses language skilfully to encourage himself to be strong.

6

Consider Poem 24 by Propertius (Prescribed Text, page 37).

17. Refer to lines 1–12 (I that . . . name).

Propertius explores the locked-out lover theme in an original way. Do you find this approach engaging? Support your response with reference to the text.

3

Consider Poem 28 by Horace (Prescribed Text, page 42) and Poem 32 by Horace (Prescribed Text, page 44).

18. (a) Refer to lines 1–12 of Poem 28 (*quis multa . . . fallacis*).

From your reading of these lines do you think Horace still has feelings for Pyrrha? Support your answer with reference to the text.

4

- (b) Refer to lines 1–12 of Poem 32 (The Gods . . . pollute you).

What feelings does Horace express towards Lyce in these lines? Support your answer with reference to the text.

2

19. 'Roman poets take a very negative view of love'.

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Discuss with reference to poems by at least **three** of the prescribed poets.

20

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