



National
Qualifications
2026

X843/76/11

**Latin
Literary Appreciation**

MONDAY, 1 JUNE
9:00 AM – 11:40 AM

Total marks — 80

Choose **TWO** sections.

Attempt ALL questions in your chosen sections.

SECTION 1 — CATULLUS — 40 marks

SECTION 2 — OVID — 40 marks

SECTION 3 — VIRGIL — 40 marks

SECTION 4 — PLINY — 40 marks

SECTION 5 — CICERO — 40 marks

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.



SECTION 1 — CATULLUS — 40 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Catullus, *Poems*

Turn to PAGE ONE of the Prescribed Text.

1. Refer to **Poem 1** (*cui dono . . .*).

(a) Why does Catullus dedicate his book to Cornelius in line 3? 2

(b) Why does Catullus pray to his patron goddess in line 9? 1

Turn to PAGE THREE of the Prescribed Text.

2. Refer to **Poem 3**, lines 1–11 (*ni te . . . labores*).

(a) Identify details that show Catullus dislikes the book he has been given. 3

(b) Why does Catullus think that Calvus sent him the book? 2

3. Refer to the whole of **Poem 4** (*paene insularum . . .*).

Catullus addresses Sirmio as if this place were a person. In what ways does he show joy at coming back? In your answer, you may wish to refer to the arrangement and choice of words, imagery, sound and metre.

6

Turn to PAGE SIX of the Prescribed Text.

4. Refer to **Poem 7** (*Acmen Septimius . . .*).(a) Refer to lines 2–7 (*mea inquit . . . leoni*). In what ways does Septimius express his love for Acme? 4(b) Refer to lines 13–16 (*sic inquit . . . medullis*). In what ways does Acme express her love for Septimius? 4

(c) Cupid (Amor) is described as approving of their love. Do you think that Catullus also approves? Give a reason for your answer. 1

SECTION 1 (continued)

Turn to PAGE SEVEN of the Prescribed Text.

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 5. | Refer to the whole of Poem 9 (Yesterday, Licinius . . .).
Catullus describes his friendship with Licinius. Explain why ‘yesterday’ Catullus was happy and why ‘now’ he is sad. Support your answer with reference to the poem. | 5 |
| 6. | Catullus’ poems feature things which caused offence to Romans at the time. Suggest what these things might have been. | 4 |
| 7. | Would you have liked to have been part of Catullus’ friendship group or not? Explain your answer with reference to at least three poems. | 8 |

[Turn over

SECTION 2 — OVID — 40 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

Turn to PAGE TEN of the Prescribed Text.

8. Refer to Extract 2, lines 9–13 (*invide . . . aures*).

(a) Consider what Pyramus and Thisbe say to the wall. Explain why they have both positive and negative feelings towards the wall. 3

(b) Some people think that talking to a wall is a strange thing to do. Do you agree or not? Explain your answer. 3

Turn to PAGE ELEVEN of the Prescribed Text.

9. Refer to Extract 3, lines 19–28 (*sed postquam . . . illa*).

Consider Pyramus' dying moments with Thisbe. In what ways might Pyramus have been comforted by what Thisbe said and by what she did? Refer to the text to support your answer. 5

Turn to PAGES NINE AND TWELVE of the Prescribed Text.

10. The parents of Pyramus and Thisbe feature in Extract 1 and in Extract 4.

What can we learn about these particular parents from reading these two extracts? 3

11. Many Romans believed in the power of love and the idea that 'love conquers all'. What evidence is there in the story of Pyramus and Thisbe to support this view? 3

Turn to PAGE THIRTEEN of the Prescribed Text.

12. Refer to Extract 6, lines 4–9 (*cui . . . aeno*).

What can we learn from these lines about how poor people in Roman times heated their homes? 3

13. Refer to Extract 7, lines 1–4 (*adcubuere . . . virentes*).

The gods sit down to eat. Describe what Baucis does to make the guests more comfortable. 3

SECTION 2 (continued)

Turn to PAGE FOURTEEN of the Prescribed Text.

14. Refer to **Extract 8**, lines 9–18 (We are . . . temple).

Explain why the gods tell Baucis and Philemon to leave their cottage at this point in the story.

3

15. Refer to **Extract 9**, lines 11–17 (*ante . . . frutex*).

Consider the description of Baucis and Philemon turning into trees.

In what ways does Ovid make this scene come to life? Refer to the text to support your answer.

6

16. To what extent do you agree that these two stories can still teach us lessons about life today? Support your answer with reference to both stories.

8

[Turn over

SECTION 3 — VIRGIL — 40 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Virgil, *Aeneid I, IV and VI*

Turn to PAGE FIFTEEN of the Prescribed Text.

17. Refer to the whole of Extract 2 (
- haec dum . . .*
-).

In this extract, Virgil compares Dido to the goddess Diana. What do Dido and Diana have in common?

2

Turn to PAGE SIXTEEN of the Prescribed Text.

18. Refer to the whole of Extract 3 (
- praecipue infelix . . .*
-).

(a) Describe how the god Cupid puts ideas into Dido's mind.

2

(b) In these lines, Virgil hints at a tragic future. Identify ways in which he does this.

4

(c) In your view, do these hints spoil the story or improve it?

3

19. Refer to the whole of Extract 4 (
- uritur infelix . . .*
-).

In these lines, Virgil uses a simile to describe Dido's situation. How effective, in your view, is this simile? Give reasons for your answer.

6

Turn to PAGE EIGHTEEN of the Prescribed Text.

20. Refer to Extract 7, lines 15–30 (
- tandem . . . mentem*
-).

In these lines, Dido confronts Aeneas with his plans to leave her.

(a) What does Dido say to Aeneas that shows that she thinks he has treated her badly?

3

(b) In what ways does Virgil use language to emphasise the intensity of Dido's emotions? In your answer, you may wish to refer to the choice and arrangement of words, imagery, sound and metre.

6

SECTION 3 (continued)

Turn to PAGE NINETEEN of the Prescribed Text.

21. Refer to the whole of Extract 8 (Because of you . . .).

Describe some of the challenges that Dido now faces.

3

Turn to PAGE TWENTY of the Prescribed Text.

22. Refer to Extract 11, lines 2–7 (*spero . . . imos*).

In these lines, Dido promises revenge on Aeneas for abandoning her. Describe what she predicts will happen.

3

23. ‘Life had always been unfair to Dido.’

To what extent would you agree with this assessment?

8

[Turn over

SECTION 4 — PLINY — 40 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Pliny, *Letters*

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-TWO of the Prescribed Text.

24. Refer to the whole of Extract 1 (You ask . . .).

(a) Why do you think Pliny compliments Tacitus in these lines? Explain your answer. 2

(b) Do you consider this a good opening to Pliny's letter or not? Explain your answer. 2

25. Refer to the whole of Extract 2 (*erat Miseni* . . .).(a) Refer to lines 1–12 (*erat* . . . *visum*). What evidence is there in these lines that Pliny's uncle was interested in finding things out? 3(b) Refer to lines 13–27 (*iubet* . . . *pete*). What aspects of Pliny's uncle's behaviour might seem surprising? Explain your answer. 4

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-THREE of the Prescribed Text.

26. Refer to the whole of Extract 3 (*At Stabiae* . . .).

What differences are there between the reactions of the uncle and Pomponianus to the eruption? 2

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-FOUR of the Prescribed Text.

27. Refer to the whole of Extract 6 (*interim Miseni* . . .).

Pliny begins to write about his own experiences at Misenum but suddenly stops. Explain why. 3

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-FIVE of the Prescribed Text.

28. Refer to the whole of Extract 9 (*iam hora* . . .).

What details does Pliny give to show that the eruption had a huge impact? Refer to the text to support your answer. 3

29. Refer to the whole of Extract 11 (*nec multo* . . .).

Pliny makes his description of his departure from Misenum seem distressing. Explain how he does this through his skilful use of language.

In your answer you may wish to refer to the choice and arrangement of words, imagery, sound and dramatic events. 6

SECTION 4 (continued)

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-SIX of the Prescribed Text.

30. Refer to the whole of Extract 13 (*tandem illa . . .*).

Pliny said that he spent the night in hope and fear (*spe ac metu*). Explain what caused him to have both hope **and** fear. Refer to the text to support your answer.

3

31. What can we learn from these two letters about the Romans' feelings of duty to others?

4

32. Do you consider that Tacitus would have felt greater sympathy for Pliny or for the uncle when he read these letters?

Refer to **both** letters to support your answer.

8

[Turn over

SECTION 5 — CICERO — 40 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Cicero, *In Verrem V*

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-SEVEN of the Prescribed Text.

33. Refer to Extract 1, lines 15–16 (he thought . . . Venus).

Explain what Cicero means when he says Verres devoted his time to ‘Bacchus and Venus’.

2

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT of the Prescribed Text.

34. Refer to Extract 3, lines 1–11 (
- cum propter . . . exhiberentur*
-).

- (a) Refer to lines 1–5 (
- cum propter . . . depressam*
-).

Verres’ captains manage to capture a pirate ship. Explain how they do this.

2

- (b) Refer to lines 8–11 (
- quod ubi . . . exhiberentur*
-).

- (i) Describe the change that comes over Verres when he hears the news that a pirate ship has been captured.

2

- (ii) Suggest reasons why Cicero describes Verres’ reaction in so much detail.

3

35. Refer to Extract 3, lines 17–25 (
- archipiratam . . . diceret*
-).

- (a) Refer to lines 17–21 (
- archipiratam . . . coniectura est*
-).

Explain why members of the jury might have accused Cicero of using guesswork at this point.

2

- (b) Refer to lines 21–25 (
- coniectura . . . diceret*
-).

What reasons does Cicero give for using guesswork?

3

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-NINE of the Prescribed Text.

36. Refer to the whole of Extract 4 (One man . . .).

What can we learn from these lines about Roman triumphs?

3

SECTION 5 (continued)

Turn to PAGE TWENTY-NINE of the Prescribed Text.

37. Refer to Extract 5, lines 5–8 (*vivum . . . decerneretur*).

In what ways does Cicero make fun of Verres' hopes of a triumph?

4

38. Refer to Extract 6, lines 1–5 (But because . . . imprisonment).

According to Cicero, the stone quarries were an ideal prison, so why did Verres not put his prisoner there?

2

Turn to PAGE THIRTY of the Prescribed Text.

39. Refer to Extract 7, lines 1–8 (*ne Panhormum . . . adhiberetur*).

What made Centuripa the perfect place for Verres' prisoner?

3

40. Refer to Extract 7, lines 26–33 (*itaque . . . putem*).

In these lines, Cicero describes the cruelty with which Verres treated Roman citizens. In what ways does Cicero use language to emphasise this cruelty?

6

41. How do you think the people of Sicily would have rated Verres as their governor? Refer to the text to support your answer.

8

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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