

2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Introductory

1. What is the Latin for the abbreviation A.D.?
2. What Latin phrase means “on and on endlessly”?
3. What mythological allusion refers to a deadly weakness despite overall strength?
4. The golden prize, awarded by Paris, subsequently became known as what?
5. What Latin phrase means “under the penalty” and is the name of a legal writ requiring one’s presence at court?
6. What is the Greek name of Diana, at right, the goddess of the hunt?
7. What was the highest elected office of the Roman Republic?
8. What Roman numeral stands for 1000?
9. What Latin phrase means “written afterwards”?
10. To what group did Stheno, Euryale, and Medusa belong?
11. Persephone is the wife of what Greek god?
12. Which one of the Olympians was thought of as ugly because he walked with a limp?
13. On what mountain in northern Greece did the gods have their home?
14. What Latin phrase meaning “one out of many” may be seen on all United States coins?
15. In 79 AD, the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius destroyed what city?
16. What Latin phrase means “time escapes (or flies)”?
17. What is the temple, at right, to all gods in ancient Rome?
18. Who was the father of Cronos and Rhea and the other Titans?
19. What ingenious idea of Odysseus allowed the Greeks to finally defeat the Trojans?
20. What Athenian hero was the slayer of the Minotaur?
21. What Latin phrase refers to “solid land”?
22. By what river of the Underworld did the gods swear their oaths?
23. What abbreviation, meaning literally “that is,” is used to clarify a preceding statement?
24. What is the Roman-derived name for Odysseus?
25. What was the name of the amphitheatre in ancient Rome that staged gladiatorial combats?



2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Introductory Continued

26. What was the name of the paper made from the pith of a wetland plant found in Egypt?
27. What Latin abbreviation identifies the time of day before noon?
28. Who were the twin sons of Mars and Rhea Silva who vied for naming rights to their new city?
29. What Latin phrase means “always faithful” and serves as the motto of the Marine Corps?
30. What is the Latin abbreviation for “and other things” or “and the rest”?
31. What god of love is said to be the son of Aphrodite?
32. What adjective meaning “cheerful” derives from an alternative name for Jupiter?
33. What Roman emperor, known originally as Gaius Octavius, seen below, first established the Pax Romana?
34. Where in the Underworld is Tantalus punished?
35. Where in ancient Rome were chariot races held?
36. What temple of Athena stood on the Acropolis in ancient Athens?
37. Where in the Underworld do the souls of heroes and the virtuous reside?
38. What hero was the captain of the Argo and went in quest of the Golden Fleece?
39. What motto of the Coast Guard means “always prepared”?
40. What epic begins by asking the muse to speak of a clever man “of many turns”?
41. What epic begins by asking the muse to sing of the anger of Achilles?
42. What son of Cronos and Rhea ruled over the sea with his trident?
43. Who was the minstrel who tried to rescue his beloved Eurydice from the Underworld?
44. What Titan, whose name means “forethought,” suffered for his gift of fire to man?
45. To what group did Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos belong?
46. What mythological architect and inventor designed the labyrinth that housed the Minotaur?
47. What is the Roman name for the god of messengers, merchants, and thieves?
48. On what day of what month was Caesar assassinated?
49. What is the name for a long narrative poem that celebrates the deeds of a legendary hero?
50. To what mythological group did the avenging goddesses Alecto, Megaera, and Tisiphone belong?



2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Level I

1. What mythological allusion refers to a deadly weakness despite overall strength?
2. What Latin phrase meaning “nourishing mother” refers to the college from which one graduated?
3. What is Athena’s terror-inducing shield?
4. What Latin phrase meaning “another I” refers to one’s closest friend?
5. What Latin phrase means “by virtue of one’s office”?
6. What serpent-like wetland monster with many heads did Hercules, at right, defeat?
7. What Latin phrase means “with the situation turned around”?
8. What Latin abbreviation means “that is” and is used to clarify a preceding statement?
9. What Latin phrase means “in place of the parent”?
10. What Latin phrase is used to mean an average per person?
11. What adjective derives from the Latin word for “boy” and means “childish”?
12. What word for an advisor derives from the name of the elder, whom Athena sometimes impersonated, who advised Telemachus and Odysseus?
13. What Latin phrase means “under the penalty” and is the name of a legal writ requiring one’s presence at court?
14. What Roman numeral stands for 1000?
15. What Latin phrase is used to describe an individual as a “rare bird”?
16. What was the name of the island on which Odysseus was king?
17. Who was the teller of fables that often featured talking animals?
18. What daughter of Minos helped Theseus escape the dangers of the Labyrinth and the Minotaur?
19. What adjective derived from Latin is used to describe an occupation that requires much sitting?
20. To what group did Stheno, Euryale, and Medusa belong?
21. Persephone is the wife of what Greek god?
22. Which one of the Olympians was thought of as ugly because he walked with a limp?
23. In 79 AD, the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius destroyed what city?
24. What is the Roman name of the mother of Proserpina?
25. What Latin phrase means “thus passes the glory of the world”?



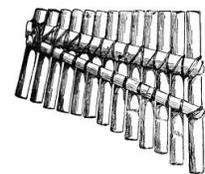
2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Level I Continued

26. What word from the Latin, meaning “flowing like honey,” is used to describe a sweet melody?
27. Who was the father of Cronos and Rhea and the other Titans?
28. What ingenious idea of Odysseus allowed the Greeks to finally defeat the Trojans?
29. By what river of the Underworld did the gods swear their oaths?
30. What was the name of the amphitheatre in ancient Rome that staged gladiatorial combats?
31. What Roman emperor, originally named Gaius Octavius, seen below, first established the Pax Romana?
32. What Greek god of love is said to be the son of Aphrodite?
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34. Where in the Underworld is Tantalus punished?
35. Where in ancient Rome were chariot races held?
36. Where in the Underworld do the souls of heroes and the virtuous reside?
37. What motto of the Coast Guard means “always prepared”?
38. What Latin phrase means “the existing state of affairs”?
39. What Titan, whose name means “forethought,” suffered for giving fire to man?
40. What adjective meaning “cheerful” derives from an alternative name for Jupiter?
41. What mythological inventor and son were the first men to fly?
42. What is the Roman name for the god of messengers, merchants, and thieves?
43. On what day of what month was Caesar assassinated?
44. To what mythological group did the avenging goddesses Alecto, Megaera, and Tisiphone belong?
45. What Latin word is used in English to refer to the customs and values of a cultural period?
46. On what hill in ancient Rome did the Temple of Jupiter stand?
47. What abbreviation stands for the Senate and the People of Rome?
48. What Latin phrase describes a verbal miscue or slip of the tongue?
49. What epic, written by Vergil, begins *Arma virumque cano*?
50. What adjective derived from Latin refers to something characteristic of the common people?



2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Level II

1. What is the name of Athena's terror-inducing shield?
2. What Latin phrase means "by virtue of one's office"?
3. What adjective, derived from a triform mythological monster that was slain by Bellerophon, refers to something as existing only in unchecked imagination?
4. What Latin phrase means "in place of the parent"?
5. What was the name of Mercury's snake-entwined staff?
6. What Latin phrase is used to mean an "average per person"?
7. What adjective derives from the Latin word for "boy" and means "childish"?
8. Who was the ancient Greek author of fables that often featured talking animals?
9. What Latin phrase means "to the stars through adversity"?
10. What 5th century B.C. Roman left his plow to serve as dictator in a time of emergency?
11. Which Latin phrase, meaning "Behold the Man," is said to have been spoken by Pontius Pilate when he was presenting Christ, crowned with thorns, to a hostile crowd?
12. What Roman triplets, during the reign of Tullus Hostilius, defeated the Curiatii, triplets from hostile Alba Longa?
13. What daughter of Minos helped Theseus escape the dangers of the Labyrinth and the Minotaur?
14. What Latin phrase means "thus passes the glory of the world"?
15. What word from the Latin, meaning "flowing like honey," is used to describe a sweet melody?
16. To what group did Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos belong?
17. What Latin phrase means "the existing state of affairs"?
18. From the transformation into reeds of what nymph did Pan fashion a musical pipe?
19. What noun from the Latin word for "grandson" refers to favoring one's own relatives?
20. What Latin word is used in English to refer to the customs and values of a cultural period?
21. What Latin phrase describes a verbal miscue or slip of the tongue?
22. What epic begins with the poet singing of arms and the man who founds Roman civilization?
23. What adjective derived from Latin refers to something characteristic of the common people?
24. What Emperor in 313 A.D. proclaimed (in his Edict of Milan) religious toleration throughout the Empire?
25. What Latin legal phrase, meaning "body of crime," refers to the principle that a crime must be proven to have been committed before one can be convicted of that crime?



2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Level II Continued

26. What riddle, solved by Oedipus, had “Man” as its answer?
27. What noun derived from the Latin meaning “without worry” refers to a job with little responsibility?
28. What Roman patrician first served under Marius and but later undertook a civil war against Marius and his followers?
29. What ancient Babylonian story is re-imagined in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*?
30. What is the Greek term for a city-state?
31. What Latin phrase means “at first glance”?
32. What sister of Phrixus fell off the Golden Ram in their escape from Ino?
33. What Latin term refers to a person’s devotion to his religious responsibilities?
34. What Latin term is used in philosophy to refer to the highest good?
35. Who was the leader of Greek forces in the Trojan War?
36. What daughter of Cassiopeia did Perseus rescue from the sea-monster Cetus?
37. What Latin phrase means “let the buyer beware”?
38. What labor did Hercules, at right, accomplish with the help of the Alpheus and Peneus rivers?
39. What Latin phrase means “while I breathe, I hope”?
40. What Latin phrase means “a healthy mind in a healthy body”?
41. What is the name of the Cyclops whose eye Odysseus poked out?
42. What English adjective, referring to someone as indolent or idle, derives from the Latin noun meaning “leisure”?
43. Give the Latin for the abbreviation Q.E.D.
44. What term for a medicine that has no pharmacological effect derives from the Latin verb meaning “I will please”?
45. Who gave the funeral oration for Caesar and in Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* speaks the words “Friends, Romans, Countrymen”?
46. What is the Latin phrase, meaning “hurry slowly,” used by Augustus in response to supporters who wanted to make changes at a speed that he thought was too great?
47. Who was the mother of Zeus’ daughter Helen?
48. What Latin abbreviation means “in the same place”?
49. What is the Latin phrase that refers to a law applied retroactively?
50. Who was the mother of Zeus’ sons Minos, Radamanthus, and Sarpedon?



2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Level III

1. What was the name of Athena's terror-inducing shield?
2. What was the name of the aged father whom Aeneas, fleeing Troy, carried out on his back?
3. What adjective, derived from a triform mythological monster slain by Bellerophon, refers to something as existing only in unchecked imagination?
4. Which Latin phrase, meaning "Behold the Man," was spoken by Pontius Pilate in the Vulgate when he presented Christ, scourged and crown with thorns, to a hostile crowd?
5. Who was the Greek comic playwright who wrote *The Clouds* and *Lysistrata*?
6. What three Roman brothers, seen below, during the reign of Tullus Hostilius became heroes for defeating three brothers of the enemy, the Curiatii?
7. What Latin phrase means "thus passes the glory of the world"?
8. What noun from the Latin word for "grandson" refers to favoring one's own relatives?
9. What Latin word is used in English to refer to the customs and values of a cultural period?
10. What Latin epic begins *Arma virumque cano*?
11. What Latin legal phrase, meaning "body of crime," refers to the principle that a crime must be proven to have been committed before one can be convicted of that crime?
12. What Roman patrician was continuously at odds with Marius and his followers?
13. What sister of Phrixus fell off the Golden Ram in their escape from their stepmother Ino?
14. What Latin term refers to a person's devotion to his religious responsibilities?
15. What is the oxymoronic Latin phrase used by Augustus in response to supporters who wanted to make changes at a speed that he thought was too great?
16. What Latin phrase means "a healthy mind in a healthy body"?
17. What English adjective, referring to someone as indolent or idle, derives from the Latin noun meaning "leisure"?
18. Give the Latin for the abbreviation Q.E.D.
19. At the end of the *Aeneid*, Aeneas kills what leader of the Rutulians, despite his pleas for mercy?
20. What labor did Hercules accomplish with the help of the Alpheus and Peneus rivers?
21. What Latin abbreviation means "in the same place"?
22. What is the Latin phrase that refers to a law applied retroactively?
23. Give the abbreviated Latin phrase that means "a word to the wise is sufficient."
24. Who was the mother of Zeus' sons Minos, Radamanthus, and Sarpedon?
25. What term did Aristotle use to refer to either a hero's accidental or intentional wrongdoing and is sometimes translated "fatal flaw" or a "missing of the mark"?



2012 Classical Literacy Exam – Level III Continued

26. What inseparable pair of Trojan warriors was killed when they went on night raid of the Latin forces?
27. What Latin phrase means “according to the value” and often refers to an import tax?
28. What Athenian played a prominent and controversial role during the Peloponnesian War and its aftermath? In Plato’s *Symposium*, he is the last speaker.
29. What lyric poet of the late Republic chose “Lesbia” as the pseudonym for the woman about whom many of his poems are written?
30. What Athenian leader devised a strategy to defeat the Persian navy at Salamis?
31. What was the name of the philosophical doctrine espoused by Marcus Aurelius?
32. What mathematical image did Plato employ to illustrate the ascent of a philosopher to the Good?
33. What Lydian king did Solon not include in his list of the “happiest of men” because the king had yet to finish the course of his life? Though the king was initially angry, he later had reason to acknowledge the truth of Solon’s judgment.
34. What was the name of the philosophical doctrine espoused by Lucretius?
35. What legendary Carthaginian leader with his or her last breath called down vengeance upon Aeneas and his progeny?
36. What religious rites were held in honor of Demeter and Persephone?
37. What presocratic philosopher believed that all things were made up of atoms?
38. What Latin abbreviation means “twice in a day”?
39. What Athenian playwright, at right, was the author of *Medea* and *The Bacchae*?
40. What Latin phrase means “remember to die”?
41. Fill in the blank: Vergil’s fourth eclogue is called the _____ eclogue because it prophesizes a golden child.
42. According to John, “In the beginning was the word.” What is the Greek for “word”?
43. Who was the wife of Augustus, often depicted as treacherous and conniving?
44. Fill in the blank: Days of tranquility may be called _____ days, an adjective derived from a mythical bird in the myth of Alcyone.
45. What is the rhetorical term for the introductory part of a formal speech?
46. What is the classical term for the ceremonial pouring of wine upon the ground?
47. What is the Latin phrase that means “mode of operation”?
48. What Latin phrase is used to refer to statements as if issued from a chair of authority?
49. Who was the Greek author of the *Theogony* and *Works and Days*?
50. What Roman author wrote the gossipy *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*, depicting the virtues and vices of the early emperors? Robert Graves in his *I, Claudius* relied heavily on this work.

