

2010 Classical Literacy Level II Exam

1. Whom did Orpheus try to bring back from the Underworld?
2. What is the Latin for the abbreviation M.D.?
3. What was the title of the chief priest in ancient Rome?
4. What English derivative from Latin means “pertaining to the common people”?
5. What English derivative, describing a person as courageously noble, etymologically means “great-souled”?
6. What mythological character must forever roll a boulder up a hill in the Underworld?
7. On what mountain in Greece is the Delphic Oracle?
8. What mountains run down the length of Italy?
9. What Latin word is used in English to refer to the customs and values of a society?
10. What Latin saying means “thus always to tyrants”?
11. What Latin phrase did Descartes use to mean “I think, therefore I am”?
12. What infamous fiddler (at right) was the last of the Julio-Claudian emperors?
13. What Latin abbreviation means “in the same place”?
14. Odysseus on his voyage home was caught between Scylla and _____?
15. Odysseus is to Penelope as Hector is to _____?
16. Souls that were to be reborn drank from what river of forgetfulness?
17. What Latin saying means “a healthy mind in a healthy body”?
18. What is a victory called that cost the victors almost as much as a defeat?
19. What is the Latin for “knowledge itself is power”?
20. Who was the mother of Romulus and Remus?
21. What is the name of the two-faced Roman god of beginnings and doorways?
22. Give the full Latin for the abbreviation Q.E.D.
23. What English derivative from Greek means literally a “city of the dead”?
24. What hunter was attacked by his own dogs after Diana changed him into a stag?
25. What is the name of the mother of the muses and goddess of memory?
26. What Roman earned his *nomen ex virtute* after defeating Hannibal at the the battle of Zama in 202 B.C.?
27. What is the term for a prophecy determined by the flight of birds?



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28. What word means “hate” both in English and in Latin?
29. What Latin phrase identifies the logical fallacy of thinking that A caused B simply because B followed A?
30. What was Alexander the Great’s homeland?
31. In what city, founded by Ascanius, were Romulus and Remus born?
32. What genitive plural form of the Latin relative pronoun means the minimum number of members necessary to conduct official business?
33. What Latin phrase means “the burden of proof”?
34. What Latin abbreviation means “about” or “approximately”?
35. What Roman deity carried as his staff the caduceus (at right)?
36. What is the Latin phrase which means “justice for all”?
37. What political alliance did Caesar, Crassus and Pompey form?
38. What is the Latin word for a courthouse, whose design was used later for the building of churches?
39. What English derivative from a Latin verb meaning “let it be done” refers to an arbitrary order or command?
40. What is the Latin word for truth, used now as the motto of Harvard?
41. What goddess turned Odysseus’ men into pigs?
42. What adjective, derived from the name of a Greek herald in the Trojan War, describes a shout as loud as one made by fifty men?
43. What Latin phrase means “to each his own”?
44. Rome is to Latium as Athens is to _____?
45. What is the plural of the Latin verb “exit”, used in a play script when everyone in a scene exits?
46. With what handsome youth did Echo fall in love?
47. What husband and wife reseeded the earth after Zeus wiped out humanity in a great flood?
48. What words of warning did Laocoon speak concerning the Trojan Horse (at right)?
49. What Latin saying means “Thus passes the glory of the world”?
50. What English derivative from Latin identifies a period of time between the death of one ruler and the ascension of another?

