



# NATIONAL LATIN EXAM NEWSLETTER

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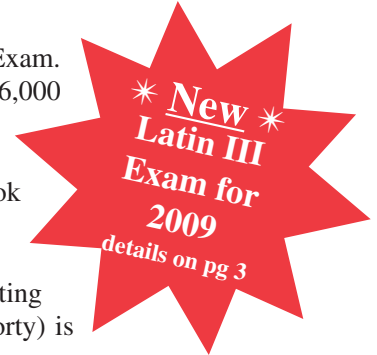
Spring 2008

## ACL/NJCL NATIONAL LATIN EXAM REPORT 2008

In 2008, more than 150,000 students applied to take the thirty-first National Latin Exam. Participation in the Exam has increased each year since its inception in 1977, when approximately 6,000 students enrolled. Students from all fifty states participated this year, as did students from eleven foreign countries, including Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Italy, Mozambique, New Zealand, Poland, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe. This year for the first time, students from Brazil also took the NLE.

During the second week in March, over 135,000 students took the National Latin Exam in their own schools, and it was administered in 16 colleges and 15 elementary schools. Also participating were 272 home schools. The breakdown of awards for each exam (the number correct out of forty) is shown below, above each category.

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LEVEL TOTAL	TOTAL	PERFECT	GOLD	SILVER	MAGNA	CUM	TOTAL AWARDS
<b>Intro</b>	16,923	356	4,969 ribbons, Cert.of Outst. Achievement for 34-40 2,844 Cert. of Achievement for 31-33				7,813
<b>Latin I</b>	51,492	604	<b>36-40</b> 6,311	<b>33-35</b> 6,556	<b>31-32</b> 5,134	<b>29-30</b> 5,858	23,859
<b>Latin II</b>	33,628	279	<b>36-40</b> 3,714	<b>32-35</b> 5,638	<b>30-31</b> 3,269	<b>28-29</b> 3,377	15,998
<b>Prose III</b>	17,298	94	<b>35-40</b> 2,044	<b>32-34</b> 2,343	<b>30-31</b> 1,869	<b>28-29</b> 1,971	8,227
<b>Poetry III</b>	3,108	6	<b>30-40</b> 500	<b>27-29</b> 423	<b>25-26</b> 346	<b>24</b> 188	1,457
<b>Prose IV</b>	2,915	19	<b>36-40</b> 357	<b>33-35</b> 439	<b>31-32</b> 365	<b>30</b> 187	1,348
<b>Poetry IV</b>	7,256	25	<b>34-40</b> 956	<b>31-33</b> 966	<b>29-30</b> 737	<b>27-28</b> 857	3,576
<b>Latin V</b>	2,431	26	<b>36-40</b> 361	<b>34-35</b> 195	<b>32-33</b> 231	<b>30-31</b> 239	1,026
<b>Latin VI</b>	311	9	<b>37-40</b> 59	<b>35-36</b> 43	<b>33-34</b> 28	<b>30-32</b> 43	173
<b>Totals</b>	<b>135,362</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>14,302</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>12,039</b>	<b>12,720</b>	<b>55,664</b>

# Exam Report 2008

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There were 1,062 perfect papers in Latin I-VI. A congratulatory letter has been sent to the principal of each school with copies for the student, the Latin teacher, and the student's permanent record. In addition, a special hand-lettered certificate was sent to each of these students.

The 5 students who have three years of perfect papers and the 1 student who has four years of perfect papers are being sent the Carter Stubbs Drake Goad Memorial book award in addition to the special certificate.

In the Introduction to Latin Exam, which was taken by 16,923 students, 7,813 students won awards. As the average number correct on this Exam was 30, students who scored 31-33 correct out of forty received Certificates of Achievement, and those with scores of 34-40 received Certificates of Outstanding Achievement and purple ribbons. The 356 students who answered all 40 questions correctly were sent a special congratulatory letter from the NLE Committee.

There were 1,204 seniors who won gold medals on the Latin III-IV Prose, III-IV Poetry, or the Latin V-VI Exam. These students are eligible for one of the twenty-one \$1000 scholarships, including one from an anonymous donor. In addition, a \$2000 scholarship will be awarded for post graduate study leading to the teaching of Latin or Greek at the elementary, intermediate, or high school level. These Scholarship awards and those for the National Greek Exam will be announced by NLE Scholarship Chair, Ephy Howard, at the ACL Institute at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH, in June. The National Latin Exam Scholarship Committee, formed in 1983, consists of Ephy Howard, Chair, and members Conrad Barrett, Judith de Luce, Gaylan DuBose, Edith Foster, Sara T. Gibson, and Sue Gillen. Linda S. Montross serves as the Scholarship Liaison. The scholarship recipients from 2007, 2006, and 2005, are eligible for an additional \$1000 if they continue their study of Latin or Greek. In 2007, the National Latin Exam awarded \$47,500 in scholarships.

The Maureen O'Donnell *Oxford Classical Dictionary* Award, given to students who win four gold medals, is being sent to 537 students this year in recognition of their outstanding achievement. The 77 students who have won five gold medals will be sent special book awards.

In September, the National Latin Exam office sent the application for the 2008 National Latin Exam to teachers who participated in the 2007 NLE. Upon receipt of the application and payment, a postcard was sent from the NLE office to the teacher, verifying the number of applicants and informing the teacher that the exams and answer sheets would be mailed to the Exam administrator or principal by February 20, 2008, by the United Parcel Service.

Clement Testing Service mailed out the exams, answer sheets and instructions and scored the returned answer sheets. The company mailed out the results, awards, exam answers, and a congratulatory letter to the teacher by April 20, 2008. A copy of the congratulatory letter for the principal was included in this package. The national percent correct for each question was also included as well as the percent correct

on each question for the individual school. Both percentages were provided in order to help teachers and students assess strengths and weaknesses.

The 2008 PERFECT PAPER and GOLD MEDAL winners will be published in *Torch U.S.*, the publication of the National Junior Classical League.

The chart given below indicates the states with the greatest number of students taking the 2008 exam and those showing the greatest increase in percentage of those participating.

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## The states with the greatest number of students taking the 2008 Exams:

Massachusetts	12,214
New York	10,913
Virginia	10,729
Pennsylvania	9,090
Texas	8,803
New Jersey	8,753
Ohio	7,378
California	7,347
Connecticut	6,065
Georgia	5,526

## The states with the greatest % increase in number of students taking the 2008 Exams:

New Mexico	182%
South Dakota	36%
Nevada	32%
Alaska	13%
Missouri	13%
North Dakota	12%
West Virginia	12%
Vermont	9%
Arizona	8%
Michigan	8%

\* \* \* **NEW LATIN III EXAM AVAILABLE FOR 2009** \* \* \*

The NLE is offering a brand new exam! Beginning in 2009, teachers of level three students will be able to choose between Latin III-IV Prose, Latin III-IV Poetry, and a generic Latin III exam. Because of the many requests and suggestions offered by teachers who do not complete the study of Latin grammar and syntax in two years, the NLE Writing/Steering Committee would like to introduce a separate exam to serve students who are in those programs. Many teachers also stated that their third year students were not prepared for the literary questions on the Prose or Poetry exams.

After the Committee reviewed the responses to our survey announced in the Fall Newsletter, they found overwhelming support for this new exam. The emergence of new textbooks and teaching philosophies has brought changes to the traditional Latin curriculum. Many programs across the country complete the second year textbook in the third year of Latin and then make the transition to authentic Latin literature by reading artificial or adapted passages and stories. There are many schools that do not expose their students to authentic Latin literature until late in the third year or the beginning of the fourth. Furthermore, the study of Latin prose, traditionally Caesar, Cicero, and Pliny, continues to decline in favor of the Roman lyric and epic poets.

The proposed syllabus for the Latin III exam will contain items typically encountered at the end of the second year textbook and will strive to represent the middle ground between the Latin II exam and the Latin III-IV Prose exam. Language items will focus on, but are not limited to, the uses of the subjunctive mood, indirect statement, the uses of gerunds, and gerundives, and case uses determined by special verbs and adjectives. In keeping with the format of the Latin I and II exams, there will be questions on the geography of the Roman world, the history of the Roman Republic and Early Empire, the myths of Greek and Roman heroes and typical Roman and Italian deities, and ceremonies in which Romans participated throughout their lives. Please see the entire proposed syllabus for the Latin III exam on pages 4 and 5.

The new Latin III exam does not replace the Latin III-IV Prose exam; the syllabus for that exam will not change for 2009. Future changes may be necessary after the committee reviews the impact and effectiveness of the Latin III exam. The committee looks forward to hearing from teachers who give this new exam as we strive to offer a meaningful and rewarding experience for all Latin students.

The committee asks that teachers, after studying the proposed new syllabus for this exam, send any concerns and suggestions to: National Latin Exam, New Latin III Proposed Syllabus, University of Mary Washington, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401, or email us at [NLE@umw.edu](mailto:NLE@umw.edu). These suggestions need to be sent to the NLE office by August 1 if they are to have an effect on the 2009 exam.

# National Latin Exam Proposed Syllabus

## LATIN III EXAM

### I. LANGUAGE (in addition to items in Latin I and II)

#### NOUNS:

- Nominative: predicate nominative with passive verbs,  
e.g., *appello, fio, nomino*
- Genitive: partitive  
with *causa* or *gratia*  
description  
objective
- Dative: possession  
purpose and reference (double dative)  
agent  
with special adjectives, e.g., *amicus, carus, similis*  
with special verbs, e.g., *impero, pareo, placeo*  
with compound verbs, e.g., *occurro, praeficio*
- Accusative: place to which (without prepositions)  
object of prepositions, e.g., *apud, praeter, super*  
exclamation
- Ablative: place from which (without prepositions)  
comparison  
description  
separation  
cause  
with special verbs, e.g., *utor, potior, vescor*
- Locative: place where, e.g., *names of cities, towns, small islands, domus, rus*

#### LATIN III READING LEVEL

Students read and understand passages heavily adapted and simplified from the original authors. They interpret the meaning of the passage based on their knowledge of Roman culture.

#### PRONOUNS:

*ipse, idem*  
indefinite, e.g., *aliquis, quidam, quisque*

#### ADJECTIVES:

irregular, e.g., *alius, alter, solus*  
positive, comparative, and superlative of special adjectives, e.g., *bonus, facilis, liber, idoneus*

#### ADVERBS:

positive, comparative, and superlative of special adverbs, e.g., *bene, diu, magnopere*

#### CONJUNCTIONS:

*si, antequam, postquam, nam, vero*  
correlatives, e.g., *sive...sive, vel...vel*

#### ENCLITICS:

*-ne, -que, -ve, -cum*

## VERBS:

deponent  
irregular, e.g., *fio, malo, volo*  
impersonal, e.g., *oportet*  
irregular imperatives, e.g., *dic, duc, fac, fer*  
indirect statement with past tense main verbs  
subjunctive mood  
hortatory, jussive  
indirect command  
indirect question  
clauses of fearing  
purpose clauses  
result clauses  
cum clauses  
conditionals

## SYNTAX:

ablative absolute  
active and passive periphrastic  
gerunds and gerundives  
expressions of purpose with gerunds and gerundives  
idioms, e.g., *vita excedere, navem solvere*

## II. CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (in addition to items in Latin I and II)

**GEOGRAPHY:** Notable cities, regions, mountains, rivers, and bodies of water of Italy and the ancient world, e.g., *Naples, Gallia, Pyrenees, Rubicon, Nile, Aegean Sea*

**HISTORY:** Prominent persons and events from the Roman Republic and Early Empire, e.g., *Julius Caesar, Marius, Sulla, Nero, War with Pyrrhus, Battle of Actium*

### MYTHOLOGY:

Greek and Roman heroes, e.g., *Perseus, Jason, Mucius Scaevola*  
typical Roman and Italian deities, e.g., *Janus, Vesta*  
origins and changes, e.g., *Daphne, Baucis and Philemon, Niobe*

### ROMAN LIFE:

calendar terms, e.g., *Kalends, Nones, Ides, pr. (pridie), a.d. (ante diem)*  
religion, e.g., *pontifex maximus, augures*  
ceremonies, e.g., *weddings, funerals*

## III. LATIN IN USE (in addition to items in Latin I and II)

**BASIC SPOKEN PHRASES:** e.g., *Quid agis?, plaudite omnes, me paenitet, eamus*

**DERIVATIVES:** English words based on Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, e.g., *agenda, conspicuous, moratorium*

**EXPRESSIONS, MOTTOES, ABBREVIATIONS:** e.g., *Pyrrhic victory, crossing the Rubicon, non sequitur, ad hominem, Q.E.D.*

## BLOCK SCHEDULING ANALYSIS FOR 2008 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Again on the 2008 NLE application, teachers were asked to indicate if they taught on a semester-block (4 by 4) schedule. Of the students taking the exam, 7,628 in 230 schools were taught on this type schedule. These students' test scores were examined and compared with the mean scores of students on traditional schedules. The results are below:

	<u>Block + Non Block</u>		<u>Non Block</u>		<u>Block</u>	
	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>
INTRO	16,923	30	15,841	30	1,082	28
LAT 1	51,492	28	48,775	28	2,717	28
LAT 2	33,628	28	31,540	28	2,088	26
PROS 3	17,298	27	16,425	27	873	26
PTRY 3	3,108	23	2,939	23	169	23
PROS 4	2,915	24	2,771	24	144	23
PTRY 4	7,256	26	6,934	26	322	26
LAT 5	2,431	28	2,293	28	138	27
LAT 6	311	29	294	29	17	29
TOTALS	135,362	27	127,734	27	7,628	27

### NLE OFFICE STAFF

Janine Kutty, Office Manager  
Rose McCreary, Clerical/Data Entry Specialist  
Ellen Smith, Administrative Assistant  
Liz Scott, Clerical  
Carol Kutty, Seasonal Clerical Help



## ANALYSIS OF THE 2008 NLE SCORES OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

According to the 2008 NLE applications, 1,135 students taking the exam were taught in 272 home schools. These students' test scores were examined and compared with the mean scores of students in traditional schools. The results are below.

	<u>Home Sch + Traditional</u>		<u>Traditional</u>		<u>Home School</u>	
	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>
INTRO	16,923	30	16,583	30	430	31
LAT 1	51,492	28	51,082	28	410	30
LAT 2	33,628	28	33,368	28	260	29
PROS 3	17,298	27	17,230	27	68	32
PROS 3	3,108	23	3,098	23	10	30
PTRY 4	2,915	24	2,905	24	10	29
PTRY 4	7,256	26	7,239	26	17	34
LAT 5	2,431	28	2,418	28	13	32
LAT 6	311	29	309	28	2	36
TOTALS	135,362	27	134,227	27	1,135	30

### A TEACHER'S THANKS

Dear NLE,

I just wanted to say thank you for sponsoring this exam. I teach in a low income school, and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to offer my students some academic competition on the national level such as this. Our students have very low expectations, so when I pass out the medals and certificates from the NLE, it really means something to them, and it opens their eyes to the possibilities in life.

Also, I am in love with the NLE medals! Thank you, thank you, thank you to whoever designed them. They really bring home the fact that the ancient world is still applicable to us when the students see the SPQR and the fasces – they aren't just dead objects from the distant past, but alive and recognizable in our own lives today. Gratias tibi ago!

Sincerely,  
Melony Carey  
Muskogee High School  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

# The HARD Ones and the EASY Ones: 2008

These are the questions which proved to be the most challenging and the easiest on each of the levels of the 2008 National Latin Exam:

## INTRODUCTION TO LATIN

### Language Questions

- Hard:** 29. Parvus gladiātor ante oculos magnī virī stat. A) the big man B) by the big man C) of the big man D) from the big man  
(36% knew that C was the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 18. Parvus gladiātor nōn respondet. A) replies quickly B) does not reply C) barely replies D) replies softly  
(98% knew that B is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

- Hard:** 7. The best translation of **tempus fugit** is A) seize the day B) time flies C) make haste slowly D) the time is right  
(67% knew that B is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 3. The individual who had complete control over a Roman family was the A) libertus B) pater C) servus D) filius  
(93% knew that B is the correct answer.)

## LATIN I

### Grammar Questions

- Hard:** 11. Poēta \_\_\_\_\_ multās fābulās nārrāvit. A) cīvēs B) cīve C) cīvem D) cīvibus  
(28% knew that D is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 6. Nauta ad portum veniēbat quod nāvem vidēre cupiēbat. A) because B) but C) whenever D) or  
(90% knew that A is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

- Hard:** 24. The last king of Rome, driven out of the city by L. Junius Brutus in 510 B.C., was A) Cincinnatus B) Hannibal C) Tarquinius Superbus D) Horatius Cocles  
(58% knew that C is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 20. If someone asks “**Quid tibi nōmen est?**” you should give your A) age B) weight C) country D) name  
(95% knew that D is the correct answer.)

## LATIN II

### Grammar Questions

- Hard:** 17. Quandō eōrum parentēs pervēnērunt? A) How B) Why C) How many D) When  
(27% knew that D is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 4. Puerī in agrīs trēs hōrās labōrāvērunt. A) in three hours B) after three hours C) for three hours D) about three hours  
(88% knew that C is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

- Hard:** 28. Scipio Africanus the Elder is best remembered for A) writing *De Bello Gallico* B) expelling the last king of Rome C) revising the calendar D) defeating Hannibal  
(53% knew that D is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 25. The tour leader called the group's attention to the abbreviation **S.P.Q.R.** which symbolized Roman A) mythology B) education C) government D) slavery  
(81% knew that C is the correct answer.)

### PROSE III AND IV

#### Grammar Questions

- Hard:** 11. Lūcius hospitibus porcum pullumve in tricliniō dabit. A) pork and chicken B) pork but not chicken C) pork or chicken D) pork with chicken  
(48% knew that C is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 8. Nōn modo discipulī sed etiam magistrī discere possunt. A) Neither ... nor B) Both ... and C) Some ... others D) Not only ... but also  
(97% knew that D is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

- Hard:** 21. Where in Italy are Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Mount Vesuvius located? A) Etrūria B) Latium C) Campānia D) Sicilia  
(27% knew that C is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 26. What Roman orator wrote speeches against Verres and Catiline? A) Marc Antony B) Caesar C) Cicero D) Pompey  
(89% knew that C is the correct answer.)

### POETRY III AND IV

#### Grammar Questions

- Hard:** 9. Hī versūs mihi memoriā tenendī sunt. A) of me B) by me C) me D) with me  
(34% knew that B is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 14. Iuppiter et Mercurius nūtiāvērunt sē esse deōs immortalēs A) he B) she C) it D) they  
(83% knew that D is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

- Hard:** 25. On his way to deliver a message from Jupiter to Aeneas, Mercury stopped on the Atlas Mountains which are located A) in northern Africa B) between Spain and Gaul C) in southern Greece D) in central Europe  
(32% knew that A is the correct answer.)
- Easy:** 20. Apollo's priestesses at Delphi, at Cumae, and elsewhere were called A) nymphs B) maenads C) furies D) sibyls  
(95% knew that D is the correct answer.)

# Exam Report 2008

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The members of the NLE Advisory Committee are David Volk, Chair (ND), Michael Bales (Canada), Nancy Czupik (OH), Debra Heaton (MA), Liane Houghtalin (VA), Joan Jahnige (KY), Susan McDonald (FL), Stephen Lee Pearce (LA), Tom Sienkewicz (IL), James Updegraff (CA), and Sandra Woodward (UT). They are meeting at the 2008 ACL Institute to review and discuss the 2008 exam. The members of this Committee represent the various geographic areas of the country, middle and high schools, colleges, and public and private schools.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has voted to place the National Latin Exam on the on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities for 2008-2009. This list will be distributed to all secondary schools in the United States in September of 2008.

The 2008 exam was similar in format to the 2007 exam. For the Introduction to Latin, Latin I, II, III/IV Prose, and III/IV Poetry exams, there were 40 multiple-choice questions on grammar, comprehension, mythology, derivatives, literature, Roman life, and history. The Latin V-VI exam contained two Latin passages as the basis for 40 multiple-choice questions on grammar, comprehension, historical background, classical literature, and literary devices. The time limit for the exams was 45 minutes.

The Writing Committee consists of Jane H. Hall (Co-Chair), Mark Keith (Co-Chair), Joe Davenport, Sally Davis, Elizabeth Heimbach, Ian Hochberg, Betty Merrill (Newsletter), Linda Montross, Christine Sleeper (Liaison), and David Winn. They began writing the exams in the spring of 2007. By the middle of August all began the difficult task of reviewing each exam with respect to the level of difficulty, accuracy, and content. After several revisions, the exams were sent to consultants Michael Bales, Sheila Dickison, John Donohue, Kathy Elifrits, Kevin Gushman, Ruth Haukeland, Edith Kovach, David Perry, and Wallace Ragan, for their in-depth critiques. Acting upon their suggestions, the Committee made further revisions. After a final reading and revision, 173,000 copies of the exams were printed.

The 2008 exam required eleven sessions averaging two hours each to complete the work associated with the exams. In addition to the general working sessions, each Committee member spent countless hours taking care of specific tasks such as writing exam questions, answering correspondence, word processing, record keeping, publicizing the exam, ordering supplies, and writing newsletter articles. The NLE Office Manager Janine Kutty, Administrative Assistant Ellen Smith, Data Entry Specialist Rose McCreary, and student aide Liz Scott tended to numerous NLE matters such as registering schools for the exam, processing exam fees, answering daily phone calls and e-mails, handling bookkeeping, and mailing newsletters, postcards, Awards Letters, and Perfect Paper Certificates.

The tip sheet which was sent out with the application continues to have a very positive effect. Many more applications

came in December, and there were not as many frantic calls about needing more exams and/or answer sheets.

Copies of the four previous exams and the National Latin Exam Syllabus are available for purchase from the American Classical League office in Oxford, Ohio for \$9.00, or online at the NLE Web Site [www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org)

The NLE again asked teachers to indicate on the 2008 application if their schools were on semester block schedule. We published the findings last year in the Fall Newsletter and hope to expand those results this year. The findings are in this Spring Newsletter.

The postmark deadline for the 2009 NLE application is January 16, 2009. The price for the 2009 exams is \$4.00 per exam, \$6.00 foreign, \$10.00 minimum order, plus a \$10 charge for postage and handling.

The philosophy of the National Latin Exam is predicated on providing all Latin students the opportunity to experience a sense of personal accomplishment and success in their study of the Latin language and culture. This opportunity exists for individual students since, in the National Latin Exam, they are not competing with their fellow students on a comparative basis, but are evaluated solely on their own performance on the exam. The basic purposes of the NLE are to promote the study of Latin and to encourage the individual student.

The NLE-sponsored Latin news program, entitled **FORUM ROMANUM**, twenty-four ten-minute programs presented entirely in Latin by qualified Latin language speakers, continues to receive enthusiastic reviews from Latin teachers across the nation. **FORUM ROMANUM** is available on DVD and Video from the American Classical League Teaching Materials & Resource Center. John Donohue, author of the series, has written an activity book to accompany **FORUM ROMANUM** which is also available from the ACL/TMRC in Oxford, OH.

The NLE web site, which is maintained by Cindy Caltagirone, contains the 2008 exams, the syllabus, and the newsletters. Members of the various committees connected with the NLE and **FORUM ROMANUM** scripts are posted on the site. The address for the web site is [www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org).

The National Latin Exam is located at the University of Mary Washington, 1301 College Ave, Fredericksburg, VA 22401; Tel 1-888-378-7721; email: [nle@umw.edu](mailto:nle@umw.edu) The Committee wishes to extend a special thank-you to all the hardworking Latin teachers and their students who have helped to make the National Latin Exam a success.



## DEAR NELLY

National Latin Exam  
University of Mary Washington  
1301 College Avenue  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401



Dear Nelly,

*I did everything right and yet was still thrown into that last minute panic! I collected money from my students early in December, filled out the application, and turned everything over to our financial secretary well before our Christmas break so that she could send the purchase order. I enjoyed that holiday thinking that I had done all the requirements for my students to take the NLE. When, after the break, I did not receive the NLE postcard, I began to worry. A call to your office confirmed my fear: You received the purchase order but not my application. The application was still in the stack on the financial secretary's desk and the deadline was looming. While I eventually did get everything in on time, that last-minute scramble was no fun. What can be done to avoid this sort of situation next year? Shouldn't you have followed up by informing me of the situation?*

*Scrambling in Scranton*

Dear Scrambling,

Purchase orders are not acceptable in lieu of application and payment. In order to register your school, we must receive your application and check or money order. When our office receives a purchase order, we send an invoice to the originator of the purchase order. Once we have invoiced the originator of the purchase order, it becomes your responsibility to follow up with the originator, to submit an application to them, and to make sure that the application and payment are mailed to our office on or before the postmark deadline. You did the right thing, but perhaps you will have to start even earlier next year.

Dear Nelly,

*My students always ask me if guessing at exam answers is a good idea. Are they penalized more for answering a question incorrectly than they would be if they left the answer blank?*

*Just Wondering in Wooster*

Dear Just Wondering,

It is best for your students to go ahead and try a guess. Answers are either right or wrong. There is no partial credit for attempting to answer a question and answering incorrectly. No credit is given for either wrong answers or non-answers. Only correct answers receive credit and count toward the student's total number of correct answers out of 40.

Dear Nelly,

*I am a new teacher in a school that has never offered Latin before. How do I get on your mailing list so that I can receive an application for the NLE? Thank goodness this year for a friend in a neighboring school who passed on an application to me allowing my students to participate in the National Latin Exam.*

*New Teacher in Newark*

Dear New Teacher,

Our office mails applications to all teachers who have participated in the NLE for any of the past three years. We mail the application to schools in September. If you haven't received your application by October, contact our office. Please do not wait until after the deadline to request an application. If you do so, your school will not be able to register for the exam. In addition to the application that is mailed to your school in September, the application is also available online beginning in August at [www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org), and a copy of the application will be included in the Fall 2008 Newsletter.

*continued on page 13*

## THE NATIONAL LATIN EXAM CONSULTANTS

Every fall the Consultants critique the exams and offer suggestions for improvement to the Writing Committee. Their ideas and contributions are invaluable in the process of preparing the exams for distribution to national and international Latin students.

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## NATIONAL LATIN EXAM WRITING/STEERING COMMITTEE

These are the committee members who meet throughout the year to discuss, write, fine-tune, and proof the exams. All seasoned Latin teachers, they have experience using a wide variety of text books and methods.

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## DEAR NELLY cont.

*Dear Nelly,*

*Is the test administrator supposed to return the unused answer sheets when she mails to you the ones the students have filled out while taking the exam? I never know what to tell her.*

*Just Asking in Ashland*

Dear Just Asking,

Other teachers/proctors have called to ask this same question. The answer is yes, the proctors should return both the used and unused answer sheets to the testing service.

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### CHECK OUT THE NLE WEBSITE!

[www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org)

#### UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON:

The 2008 Exams and Answers  
Results, Awards, and Scholarship Information for 2008  
Our Application for 2009  
Special Instructions for Home-Schoolers  
Copies of the 1999-2008 Exams  
The Syllabus for Each Level  
Contact Information for the NLE Committees and Consultants  
FORUM ROMANUM Videos, DVD, and Scripts  
Links to ACL and Other Classical Organizations

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## THE NLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The NLE Advisory Committee will meet in June 2008 during the ACL Institute at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. The members of this committee represent the various geographic areas of the country, from both public and private middle schools, high schools, and colleges. Please feel free to contact any of these members with your comments, suggestions, questions, or concerns about the National Latin Exam. Your concerns will be discussed at the meeting in June.

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