Today a prince is chasing beasts in the great forest. Many friends and dogs are with him. The young man and friends kill many deer. Therefore they are happy and they rest. Then the prince wanders alone through the forest with his dogs. The young man walks near a stream and sees hares. Therefore he walks to the stream. Now he sees the beautiful goddess without her tunic. The angry Diana shouts, “Why are you in my forest? Why are you looking at me? You ought not to look at me nude.” The goddess splashes him with water and antlers and hooves appear on the young man, and the young man becomes a deer. The young man looks at himself in the water and sees a deer. The young man is afraid and hurries away from the stream across the rocks to the mountains. The dogs see and chase the deer. They tear the deer to pieces.

The soldiers of Hannibal extended one raft, 200 feet long and 50 feet wide, from the river bank into the river. This raft, similar to a bridge, was bound by many chains on the upper part of the opposite river bank. A second raft, equally wide but 100 feet long, was joined to the first raft. The soldiers covered the first raft with dirt. Then the elephants, believing that they were crossing firm ground, were led onto the first raft by the female elephants. When they had proceeded onto the smaller raft, immediately the chains by which this second raft had been joined to the first raft were unfastened. Then the second raft was drawn to the opposite river bank by swift (and) small boats. When the first elephants had been deposited, the others were carried across in this way.

The goddess Venus carrying gifts showed herself to her son and she was saying these things. “My husband has crafted these gifts for you lest you hesitate to fight in battle with fierce Turnus.” Then the goddess, with the gleaming arms having been placed under the opposite oak tree, sought the embrace of her son. Aeneas was happy with his mother’s gifts and so great an honor. He admired the dreadful helmet adorned with crests and spouting flames. He saw the large sword and he touched the huge breastplate made of bronze. The spear was very long. Most beautiful was the shield on which there were many pictures....
Posenna by name, angry because Horatius Cocles had dared to tear down the bridge. Cloelia was present, with her chains having been broken, swimming in the river. On the top of the shield a certain man, guarding the Capitolium, stood in front of the temple. In the middle of the shield were ships fighting among themselves near Actium. Such were the pictures on the shield which Vulcan had made and which Venus had given to her son. The Trojan, although he did not know what the pictures were, nevertheless was rejoicing and was marveling at them. Then the hero lifts the shield and carries on his shoulder the fame and fate of his descendants.

Latin III-IV Prose


When a certain honest son had seen a louse crawling on the king’s clothing, with knees bent and hand raised, he indicated that he wished to perform a very small service. With (king) Louis turning (to him), the son removed the louse and secretly threw (it) away. As the king was asking what it was, he was embarrassed to confess. When the king insisted, he confessed that it had been a louse. The king generously ordered forty denarii to be paid out for this service. A few days later, another certain (son), who had seen that so humble a service had turned out favourably for that son, approached the king with a similar gesture and again with the king turning (to him), the wicked man pretended that he was removing something from the king’s clothing, which he soon threw away. When the king urged that he tell what it was, with wonderfully faked modesty, he finally responded that it was a flea. The king, with the lie understood, said, “Surely you don’t think that I am a dog?” He ordered the wicked man to be seized and forty lashes to be inflicted (on him) instead of the forty anticipated denarii.

Latin III-IV Poetry


He (Hercules) leaves as a victor, and he takes away the cattle, the spoils of Geryon, with him; but his companions refuse to go further. And a great part of them had come from Greece having been left behind: they place both their own hope and home on these hills. Often, however, they are touched by the sweet love of their fatherland, and someone dying orders this brief task: “Throw me into the Tiber, in order that I, having been carried by the Tiber’s waves, may go, as worthless dust, to the shore of Greece.” The care of the ordered burial is displeasing to the heir: the dead traveler is buried in Italian soil; an image made of straw is tossed into the Tiber in place of its master, in order that he may seek his Greek home through these far-away seas.

Latin V-VI


Poetry: Look, in the midst of flight, the overflowing Amasenus River was foaming at the top of its banks, so great a rainstorm had burst itself from the clouds. He (Metabus), preparing to swim, is delayed by love of the baby and fears for his dear burden. There was therefore, in those books, writings of this kind: that the Scythians fed on the bodies of men and lived by the nourishment of this food ... likewise that there were men under the same region of the sky having one eye in the middle of their forehead... likewise, that there were other men of singular velocity, having footsteps extended backwards, not facing forward as (those) of the rest of men. Moreover, that it has been handed down that in a certain most distant land...men are born who grow white (grow old) in childhood and see more with their eyes through the night than during the day... likewise, that, in the mountains of the land of India, there are men with dogs’ heads and barking, and that they feed on hunts of birds and wild beasts... and that there are certain ones, also, with no necks, having eyes on their shoulders... Likewise, those writers say that there is in farthest parts of India, a tribe with hairy bodies and with feathers in the manner of birds, eating no food, but subsisting on the scent of flowers, drawn in by their nostrils.

Copyright © 2012 by the National Latin Exam