

2026 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM ANSWER KEYS AND TRANSLATIONS

INTRODUCTION TO LATIN EXAM

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|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. B | 9. C | 13. C | 17. D | 21. D | 25. B | 29. D | 33. D | 37. B |
| 2. D | 6. C | 10. A | 14. B | 18. C | 22. C | 26. A | 30. A | 34. D | 38. D |
| 3. C | 7. D | 11. D | 15. A | 19. B | 23. A | 27. C | 31. B | 35. D | 39. A |
| 4. D | 8. B | 12. A | 16. D | 20. A | 24. B | 28. C | 32. C | 36. A | 40. D |

13. A girl and a boy were standing in a field near a mountain.
14. The boy was Glaucus and the girl was Julia.
15. Glaucus and Julia were brother and sister.
16. The children were happily looking at the trees on the mountain.
17. Suddenly a fierce wolf was hurrying down the mountain towards the children.
18. Glaucus was shouting, "Look! Beware!"
19. Glaucus was crying and shouting, "I am terrified!"
20. Julia was shouting, "The wolf is trying to eat us!"
21. A brave dog was hurrying through the field. Soon it was standing in front of the children.
22. The dog was giving help to the boy and the girl.
23. The dog was barking and was fighting with the wolf.
24. The dog was defeating the wolf and the wolf was fleeing.
25. Julia was praising the dog, "You are brave!"
26. The children were leading the dog to the house of their family.
27. Now the children are giving food and water to the dog in the reception hall (atrium).
28. The father is counting money in the study, but the mother runs out of the garden.
29. The mother shouts, "Why is a filthy animal in my beautiful house?"
30. The mother orders, "Children, lead the dog out of my house!"

"But the dog was protecting us near the mountain because a fierce wolf was attacking us. The dog was brave." Glaucus replies to his mother. Julia asks, "Is it able to live in our house?" The father enters now and replies, "The dog is able to stay for one day." The children shout, "Hooray!" When the sun leaves and the whole family is sleeping, a thief quietly enters the house and walks to the study. The thief sees money on the table and carries the money out of the study. The dog hears the sound of the coins and barks. The dog runs to the reception hall and overcomes the thief. The father hurries out of the bedroom. He sees the thief and the dog. The children watch (their) father and the thief through the doors of the bedrooms. The father shouts and the terrified thief flees out of the house - without the coins! The next day the mother exclaims, "It is able to stay! The dog guards us well." The happy father hires a craftsman. The craftsman makes a mosaic in front of door of the house. The mosaic has a picture of the brave dog and the letters, "Beware of the dog."

BEGINNING LATIN EXAM

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|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 5. D | 9. D | 13. C | 17. B | 21. D | 25. A | 29. C | 33. D | 37. C |
| 2. A | 6. D | 10. B | 14. D | 18. A | 22. D | 26. D | 30. D | 34. C | 38. A |
| 3. C | 7. B | 11. C | 15. C | 19. B | 23. B | 27. A | 31. C | 35. B | 39. A |
| 4. B | 8. C | 12. A | 16. A | 20. B | 24. D | 28. C | 32. B | 36. B | 40. A |

1. The friend of my mother is strong.

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2. The girl was showing the sword to her brothers.
3. "How beautiful the flowers are!" the boy exclaimed.
4. A night without the moon and stars is dangerous.
5. In the field I see neither people nor animals.
6. Julia and Publia listened to the poet's clever recitation.
7. The father said to the sad child, "Don't cry, daughter!"
8. The birds were singing among the trees.
9. First, the mother rose. Then, the mother walked to the garden.
10. Did you hear my friends?
11. We ran to the forum.
12. "I found money, father!" the boy responded with great joy.
13. Ten dogs were in the road. Suddenly, cats appeared. Three dogs immediately chased the cats and departed from the road. How many dogs are now in the road?
14. With what part of your body do you watch a show?
15. "Show me your teeth," says the doctor.
16. "Because I desire to buy a toga..." A) Why do you have money?" B) How did you find the money?" C) Where is your money? D) When did you lose my money?
17. Hooray!
18. The children learn to write with pens.
20. "It is permitted for you."
21. Where were Roman citizens able to see two-horse chariots, the *spina*, turning posts, and horses?

Once there was a goddess of justice, with the name Astraea. Astraea was the daughter of Jupiter and she lived on earth with people. Astraea was good and just. Therefore the people loved the goddess, and the goddess loved the people. The goddess was beautiful and always held a set of scales in her hands. The set of scales was an instrument which has two parts: one for good, the other for evil. Astraea always gave a gift to good people, (but) nothing to bad people. But after many years, men had bad habits. They were often angry and were always making wars. They were no longer observing laws and rights. They were not loving justice. "Why do people have bad habits now?" asked Astraea. "Why do they no longer think about justice?" The sad goddess was weeping for a long time. Finally, she said, "I am not able to stay here. People do not have good habits now." Then the goddess, without tears and care, quickly ascended into the heavens/sky. There she stood among the stars. Now people call her "Virgo," because the goddess was a maiden. The goddess did not ascend alone, but she also carried her instrument with her. Now they shine in the sky. Virgo appears among the stars when the days are no longer warm, and leaves fall from the trees. Now, when people see Astraea and her instrument in the sky, they think about justice.

BEGINNING LATIN READING COMPREHENSION EXAM

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|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 5. D | 9. C | 13. B | 17. B | 21. C | 25. C | 29. B | 33. D |
| 2. D | 6. A | 10. C | 14. C | 18. C | 22. A | 26. C | 30. D | 34. A |
| 3. C | 7. B | 11. A | 15. A | 19. D | 23. B | 27. A | 31. C | 35. D |
| 4. B | 8. B | 12. C | 16. B | 20. D | 24. B | 28. B | 32. B | 36. D |

Achilles was a strong Greek soldier. Hector was a strong Trojan soldier. Hector killed Patroclus, the dear friend of Achilles, in war. And so Achilles, sad and angry, wanted to kill the cruel enemy. Achilles had two horses: Xanthus and Balius. Swift and strong were these horses whom Neptune had given to the father of

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Achilles. Afterwards, (his) father gave them to his strong son. The horses had both wise minds and faithful hearts. They often were caring for (their) master. They were accustomed to make sound and to lower their heads to their master alone when he approached. Xanthus and Balius were accustomed to taking their master in a chariot into war. Once the horses had brought Patrocles, who was wearing the arms of Achilles, into war against Hector. The horses were remaining near the dead friend. The eyes of the horses were dripping with tears. The miserable Achilles asked, "Oh no! Why did you not bring the body of Patroclus to the Greek camp. Take me into war, swift horses! It is necessary for me to kill Hector."

Suddenly the eyes of the horses are clear. Xanthus, speaking just as a person (through a gift of the queen of the gods) "O Achilles," said, "we will carry you swiftly into war. It is permitted for you to kill Hector but not to escape death. The Fates are calling you. Do you understand?" Achilles hears the words and is not afraid. "I know my fate," he says. "Patroclus is dead. Soon I will be together with Patroclus. But first it is necessary for me to kill Hector!" Xanthus responds, "I understand. I will give you help." Suddenly the wind of the gods blows and Xanthus again is silent. The Furies have taken away his voice. He will never be able to speak words again. Then the horses run swiftly into war with (their) master just as winds blow over the sea. Achilles fights strongly and kills Hector. But Xanthus and Balius now see the final fate of the hero. Again their eyes drip with tears.

INTERMEDIATE EXAM

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|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. A | 9. D | 13. D | 17. A | 21. D | 25. D | 29. B | 33. B | 37. C |
| 2. C | 6. C | 10. B | 14. A | 18. D | 22. B | 26. A | 30. A | 34. A | 38. B |
| 3. D | 7. A | 11. A | 15. C | 19. B | 23. C | 27. B | 31. C | 35. D | 39. A |
| 4. C | 8. D | 12. B | 16. A | 20. C | 24. A | 28. C | 32. D | 36. C | 40. B |

1. The spectators were watching the horses running around the central divider/spina.
2. The brave queen was ruling for ten years.
3. Although many men are making good speeches, few are saying wise words.
4. Many stories will be told about these things.
5. Come with me, friend, to the theater!
6. Julius Caesar, having been captured by the pirates, was mocking them bravely.
7. "You are sick," said the father. "It is necessary for you to go to the doctor."
8. How will the traveler find the path in the dark woods?
9. My brother, to whom I am writing the letter, lives in Spain.
10. We had prepared to swim across the river.
11. What is better than friendship?
12. Were you able, sailor, to travel across the sea?
13. The sleeping cat was awakened on account of the loud noise.
14. Before the reign of Augustus, many buildings in the city were being built with bricks.
15. Even a very small tree gives shade.
16. The elephants, about to go across the mountains, were terrified.
17. Surely most Romans were not living in large houses?
18. The athlete was throwing the discus very skillfully.
19. The golden apple was found by three goddesses.
20. Don't swim in the dangerous sea!
21. The artist was painting the walls of the house with a blue color.

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23. "Raise your hands, students!" said the teacher.

Ptolemy, the king of Alexandria, collected many books in a very great library. Ptolemy was wanting to honor the gods with new poems. Therefore, he announced a contest among the poets: Who is able to write the best poem? There was a man, Aristophanes by name, who every day was sitting in the library of Alexandria and through the whole day was reading books with the greatest care. Everything which he had read, he remembered. On account of his memory, Aristophanes was chosen as the judge of the contest by the king. On the day of the contest Aristophanes with the king listened to the poets reciting. After the final poet recited, the king asked Aristophanes, "How will you choose a winner? Surely all the poets recited very beautifully?" "Certainly," replied Aristophanes, "they all recited poems sweetly, but only one of them is an honest poet. That man alone wrote his own poem. The rest however recited poems stolen out of the books in the library. Those who recite poems written by others are not poets. And so, as it seems to me, that honest poet who wrote his own poem is the winner." The king, hesitating, ordered the books to be brought out of the library. After Aristophanes showed the poems in those books to the king, Ptolemy believed him and gave the reward to the honest poet. Aristophanes also received a reward from the king and was made curator of the library.

INTERMEDIATE LATIN READING COMPREHENSION EXAM

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|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. C | 9. A | 13. A | 17. A | 21. B | 25. B | 29. A | 33. A |
| 2. C | 6. B | 10. B | 14. B | 18. D | 22. C | 26. C | 30. C | 34. A |
| 3. A | 7. A | 11. C | 15. D | 19. C | 23. B | 27. A | 31. D | 35. B |
| 4. D | 8. D | 12. D | 16. C | 20. C | 24. D | 28. C | 32. D | 36. B |

Passage 1: The peacock came to Juno, bearing himself angrily because the goddess had not given him the voice of the nightingale. The peacock was complaining that the nightingale was pleasing to all ears, but that he (i.e., the peacock) was being laughed at, while (he was) singing. Then the goddess, for the sake of consoling (him), said: "But you are superior in beauty and size, your neck shines similar to an emerald, and also you unfold (your) tail with (its) painted feathers." The peacock asked: "How is my silent beauty an aid for me (or "serve as an aid for me"), if I am defeated by my voice?" The goddess responded: "(Your) parts have been given to you all by the decision of the fates. Beauty has been given to you, songs to the nightingale, strength to the eagle, prophecy to the raven, bad omens to the crow. All were content with their own gifts. Do not expect what was not given to you, lest (your) jealousy become (a source of) misery."

Passage 2: Caesar, after Gaul had been defeated, was standing with (his) soldiers before the Rubicon river. At dawn, Caesar was looking at his homeland across the river and was thinking about future war. His soldiers, preparing to cross the river, saw a young man who was making sweet sounds with a flute with great skill. Everyone turned their eyes with joy toward the young man so that they might better hear the sweet sounds. Soon the soldiers of Caesar and many farmers, who were working in nearby fields, were running quickly toward the young man. Many were thinking that the young man was not a mortal, but a ghost. Many therefore were shouting, "The gods have sent a ghost to Caesar." Caesar, approaching the young man, said "O young man, why do you make such sweet sounds? You see my soldiers, don't you? You know about the future war, don't you? Now is not the time of sweet sounds. These sounds do not please us!" The young man responded (with) nothing. At that very time he caught sight of one of Caesar's soldiers holding a trumpet. Suddenly the young man took the trumpet from the soldier and

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quickly went across the river. He made a great sound with the trumpet, a sign of/for war. Caesar, with this sign having been heard, said, "It is also necessary for us to cross the river. Our enemy will be defeated. The sound of the trumpet is the sign of victory. Let the sign be true! Rome will be mine! The die has been cast."

ADVANCED LATIN PROSE EXAM

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 5. C | 9. B | 13. A | 17. A | 21. D | 25. C | 29. A | 33. C | 37. A |
| 2. B | 6. A | 10. C | 14. B | 18. A | 22. B | 26. D | 30. B | 34. A | 38. C |
| 3. B | 7. D | 11. C | 15. C | 19. A | 23. B | 27. D | 31. C | 35. D | 39. B |
| 4. D | 8. D | 12. A | 16. D | 20. C | 24. A | 28. D | 32. B | 36. C | 40. B |

1. I left from the city, having urged all the soldiers to accompany me.
2. These girls were announcing that the consul was approaching the Curia.
3. We always believed the wonderful stories of the sailors.
4. Students, while reading that oration of Cicero, ought to be more careful.
5. The orders will have been sent to those citizens within five days.
6. Each of us has diverse opinions.
7. We were staying awake for the whole night by singing.
8. Let the guests stay through dessert!
9. The letters, which the scouts had brought, informed Caesar about Vercingetorix's arrival.
10. There was not grain in the fields because of a lack of water.
11. You must read these poems!
12. The judge had condemned my father of the same crimes.
13. The children were bringing in as many rocks as they could carry.
14. Many gods and goddesses were for the Romans. / The Romans had many gods and goddesses.
15. Thus it happens that people do not carry out all the orders of (their) leaders.
16. Marcus Tullius Cicero was an orator of very great training.
17. We never understood how the Egyptians had built the pyramids.
18. The brothers were leading in the priests to make a sacrifice.

In boyhood immediately the talents of the body and mind shone forth, and more and more one after another through the steps of age; an excellent form was present and, to whom no less of authority than of grace, extraordinary strength, although not with a tall stature and a little rather projecting/prominent belly; [there was present] a unique/extraordinary memory, a willingness to learn nearly both all arts of war and of peace. Most skilled of arms and of riding on horseback, in Latin and in Greek, whether in speaking or in writing poems, ready and proficient in improvisation constantly; but unskilled not even of music, as one who could sing and could play the cithara pleasantly and skillfully. From rather many people I have learned that he was also accustomed to taking notes very quickly, contending/competing with his secretaries through play and joke, and [was accustomed] to imitate whatever signatures he had seen, and often was able to confess that he was a very great forger.

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ADVANCED LATIN POETRY EXAM

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. C | 9. C | 13. C | 17. D | 21. C | 25. C | 29. D | 33. C | 37. D |
| 2. A | 6. D | 10. C | 14. B | 18. B | 22. D | 26. B | 30. A | 34. D | 38. A |
| 3. D | 7. B | 11. C | 15. A | 19. A | 23. D | 27. B | 31. A | 35. B | 39. C |
| 4. A | 8. D | 12. B | 16. D | 20. B | 24. C | 28. A | 32. ALL | 36. C | 40. D |

1. "Let us rejoice," shouted the Trojans, "because the Greeks have gone away!"
2. The poets often set out from Brundisium on ships.
3. Whether you should send a letter to me or I should send one to you, it matters not at all.
4. I will always remember my country and people.
5. The same books have been read by students for many years.
6. Sisyphus thought that he rather cleverly had cheated Death.
7. Dido hurried to the shore to address Aeneas.
8. Catullus, with Lesbia lost, became the most miserable of poets.
9. I am never going to see you again.
10. Sulpicia is said to have loved her friends.
11. The messenger was sent to warn the queen.
12. Jason, protected by ointment given by Medea, attacked the dragon.
13. Staying in the countryside in the summer is very pleasing to me.
14. Psyche wondered why she ought to perform the labors.
15. The doctor came as an aid to the wounded (ones).
16. Augustus ordered Ovid to suffer the punishment.
17. Minerva was believed to be wiser than her father.
18. If it should snow, the children would be happy.
19. The laws depend, not on reading, but on understanding.
20. Lēsbīā mī praēsēntē vīrō mālā plūrīmā dīcīt. (Catullus 83)
22. Pyrrhus leaps up... just as when a snake, having fed on bad grasses, (has come) into the light... (Vergil, *Aeneid* II.471)

O Roman, your Venus was bearing arms on behalf of Troy, when she groaned, wounded as to her tender hand by a spear; she defeated two goddesses with a Trojan judge (ah, I would not wish the conquered goddesses to remember this!), she was called the wife of the grandson of Assaracus, so that of course one day great Caesar would have Julian ancestors. And there was not any time more suitable for Venus than spring (in spring the lands shine, in spring the field has been restored)... And beautiful Venus is worthy of a beautiful time, and as she is accustomed, she is united to her Mars. In spring she advises the curved boats to go through maternal seas and no longer to have feared the wintertime threats.

ADVANCED LATIN READING COMPREHENSION EXAM

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 5. C | 9. D | 13. C | 17. D | 21. B | 25. B | 29. B | 33. C |
| 2. C | 6. D | 10. A | 14. A | 18. A | 22. A | 26. D | 30. D | 34. B |
| 3. B | 7. C | 11. D | 15. B | 19. C | 23. C | 27. D | 31. B | 35. C |
| 4. A | 8. B | 12. B | 16. C | 20. A | 24. D | 28. A | 32. A | 36. A |

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Passage 1: Approximately during this time a situation, unbelievable to hear, happened to the army of Caesar. For, with the sign of the Pleiades passed/completed, at around the second watch of the night, a huge cloud with stone-hard hail suddenly arose. (In addition) to this misfortune, moreover, it had happened that Caesar was not keeping his army in winter quarters according to the custom of earlier times, but he was building a camp by moving forward on the third and fourth day and by approaching the enemy more closely, and with the work to be done, the soldiers were not having an opportunity of looking around themselves. Moreover, in Africa not only had they not procured or prepared anything for themselves, but they had also consumed the things previously gained because of the lack of provisions... A few men were resting under skins (tents): the rest were staying in little tents made out of their clothing. And so suddenly, because of the rain and the hail having followed, and with their tents made heavy by the weight, and broken down and scattered by the force of the waters, with their fires put out by the stormy night, with all things which pertain to food spoiled, they were wandering everywhere through the camp and they were covering their heads with their shields.

Passage 2: No power, father, will remove my hand from your body: no one will ever snatch me as a companion away from you. Let my brothers seek by sword the famous house of Labdacus, (let them seek) rich kingdoms; the greatest part of my great father's kingdom is mine: my father himself; my (one) brother, who holds the Theban scepter(s) with the kingdom stolen, will not take this one from me; the other (brother) driving Greek troops (will) not (take) this one (from me). Not if Jupiter should thunder with the world torn apart, not (if) lightning should fall into the middle of our embrace, would I remove this hand: even if you would prohibit [it], father, I would guide [you] saying no; I would direct the step of you unwilling. Do you travel into the level plains? I go: Do you head for the cliffs? I do not stand in your way, but I lead the way: use me as a leader wherever you wish – every road is chosen for two...