

PROBAT¹

LATIN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION

LEVELS C1 and C2 (*Proficient User*) - May 3rd, 2018

CANDIDATE:

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME*

PREFERRED NAME*
(if applicable)

MIDDLE NAME

CLASS

* Write down your FIRST NAME as it appears on your passport and/or birth certificate, even if you should go by a PREFERRED NAME which differs from that.

¹ Examination protocols of British and American academic institutions have inspired the language of the examination instructions featured in this PROBAT version.

EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

This examination paper comprises:

1. 2 sections: SECTION A and SECTION B
2. 8 total pages

NOTE: Before beginning, check that you have all the pages. Consult the examiner/s, if you do not.

Read the instructions below on what you are expected to do for each section. You have 1 ½ hours to complete this examination. You may use a dictionary. Answer all questions. Write in blue or black ink.

SECTION A comprises:

1. (on page 3) a Latin text taken from the collection of *Epistulae* by DANTE ALIGHIERI. Read it carefully.
Note: the text is preceded by a brief Introduction (“context”)
2. (on pages 4-6) a total of 12 questions based on the text. These aim to test both your comprehension of the text and your overall Latin proficiency. As you answer each question, place an “x” by the option you regard to be the correct one, in the manner illustrated below:

(Sample question): Can you identify the language in which the text is written?

- A. Archaic Latin
- B. Classical Latin **x**
- C. Silver Latin
- D. Vulgar Latin

NOTE: Keep in mind that only one of the four given options is the correct one.

SECTION B comprises:

1. a table for you to fill out on page 8

NOTE: Your ***FINAL GRADE*** depends ***EXCLUSIVELY*** on the correctness of the answers you provide in ***SECTION B***. It is important, therefore, that you review the instructions found on pages 7-8 on how to fill out the final table in that section. Go to pages 7-8 ***now*** and read the instructions carefully before beginning the examination.

SECTION A

CONTEXT

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) is reputed to be the author of 13 letters all written in Latin on various subjects. Dante's Latin is a living language, although very different from the classical one. As you'll see reading the text, Dante's Latin shares some phonetic features with the Florentin 'volgare,' for example the closing of the diphthong 'ae' in 'e', mirrored in the writing. Moreover, Dante writes 'michi' instead of 'mihi'. Finally, you'll find 'ymo' instead of 'immo' in paragraph 4.

1. TEXT

(From Dante Alighieri, *Epistulae*)

[*Amico Florentino*]

1. *In litteris vestris et reverentia debita et affectione receptis, quam repatriatio mea cure sit vobis et animo, grata mente ac diligenti animadversione concepi; et inde tanto me districtius obligastis, quando rarius exules invenire amicos contingit. Ad illarum vero significata responsio, etsi non erit qualem forsitan pusillanimitas appeteret aliquorum, ut suo examine vestri consilii ante iudicium ventiletur, affectuose deosco.*

2. *Ecce igitur quod per litteras vestras meique nepotis nec non aliorum quamplurium amicorum, significatum est michi per ordinamentum nuper factum Florentie super absolute bannitorum quod si solvere vellem certam pecunie quantitatem vellemque pati notam oblationis, et absolvi possem et redire ad presens. In qua quidem duo ridenda et male preconculata sunt, pater; dico male preconculata per illos qui talia expresserunt, nam vestre littere discretius et consultius clausulate nichil de talibus continebant.*

3. *Estne ista revocatio gratiosa qua Dantes Alagherii revocatur ad patriam, per trilustrum fere peressus exilium? Hocne meruit innocentia manifesta quibuslibet? hoc sudor et labor continuatus in studio? Absit a viro philosophie domestico temeraria tantum cordis humilitas, ut more cuiusdam Cioli et aliorum infamium quasi vincus ipse se patiat offerri! Absit a viro predicante iustitiam ut peressus iniurias, iniuriam inferentibus, velut benemerentibus, pecuniam suam solvat!*

4. *Non est hec via redeundi ad patriam, pater mi; sed si alia per vos ante aut deinde per alios invenitur, que fame Dantisque honori non deroget, illam non lentis passibus acceptabo; quod si per nullam talem Florentia introitur, nunquam Florentiam introibo. Quidni? nonne solis astrorumque specula ubique conspiciantur? nonne dulcissimas veritates potero speculari ubique sub celo, ni prius inglorium, ymo ignominiosum populo Florentino, civitati me reddam? Quippe nec panis deficiet.*

2. QUESTIONS*

* In some of the questions below, Dante Alighieri is referred to as "The/the Poet".

1. The dominant mode (text typology) of Dante's text is:
 - A. Narrative
 - B. Directive
 - C. Descriptive
 - D. Argumentative

2. One of the following sentences provides information that may be regarded as being irrelevant for the purposes of offering a summary of Dante's text. Which one?
 - A. Absit a viro phylosophie domestico temeraria tantum cordis humilitas, ut more cuiusdam Cioli et aliorum infamium quasi vinctus ipse se patiaturs offerri!
 - B. sed si alia per vos ante aut deinde per alios invenitur que fame Dantisque honori non deroget, illum non lentis passibus acceptabo
 - C. et inde tanto me districtius obligastis, quando rarius exules invenire amicos contingit.
 - D. Quippe nec panis deficiet.

3. The overall meaning of the letter is that:
 - A. Dante prefers to remain in exile than accept humiliating conditions as the price of securing his own return
 - B. The Poet does not intend to go back to Florence
 - C. His friends and relatives were unable to help him
 - D. Dante is aware of his own honesty and talent, and he makes a strong case for both

4. Figures of speech often provide emphasis to some parts of a text. In which paragraph of his letter does Dante employ more than one anaphora?
 - A. Paragraph 1
 - B. Paragraph 2
 - C. Paragraph 3
 - D. Paragraph 4

5. On the basis of Dante's words, it is possible to evince that:
- A. His friends and his relatives have failed to understand his feelings
 - B. The *pater* mentioned in the letter has correctly interpreted the nature of Dante's hopes
 - C. Florence has the same opinion of Dante's greatness as does the Poet himself
 - D. His relatives have understood his feelings
6. The letter reveals that:
- A. Dante is isolated
 - B. Dante has a network of '*familiares*'
 - C. Dante, at this point, maintains relations uniquely with the *pater* mentioned in the letter
 - D. Dante's town is willing to reconsider its previous decisions
7. Dante expects the recipient of his letter to react to its contents in a particular way. One of the answers below fails to reflect Dante's expectations in this regard. Which one?
- A. The recipient will be frustrated by Dante's reply
 - B. The recipient will continue to plead the Poet's case
 - C. The recipient will seek the support of other people on the Poet's behalf
 - D. The recipient will provide the Poet with a livelihood

8. Read the following excerpt from the text:

*Ecce igitur **quod** per litteras vestras meique nepotis nec non aliorum quamplurium amicorum, significatum est michi per ordinamentum nuper factum Florentie super absolute bannitorum **quod** si solvere vellem certam pecunie quantitatem vellemque pati notam oblationis, et absolvi possem et redire ad presens.*

What are the two quod's highlighted above?

- A. Both are relative
- B. Both are explicative (= explanatory)
- C. The first one is causal and the second one explicative (= explanatory)
- D. The first one is relative and the second one explicative (= explanatory)

9. In *Hocne meruit innocentia manifesta quibuslibet? hoc sudor et labor continuatus in studio* (paragraph 3, line 2), the repeated *hoc*'s refer to:
- A. revocatio gratiosa
 - B. Dantes Alagherii
 - C. trilustrium
 - D. exilium
10. In the context of this text, the word *humilitas* signifies:
- A. Humbleness
 - B. Low social position
 - C. Meanness
 - D. Mildness
11. The word *clausulate* towards the end of paragraph 2 of the text is etymologically related to one of the following English terms. Which one?
- A. Clarity
 - B. Gloss
 - C. Kiosk
 - D. Cloister
12. Dante sent this letter to his Florentine friend between 1315 and 1317. As far as you know about the Poet's life, the sentence '*Quippe nec panis deficiet*' means:
- A. Dante's conspicuous family wealth still allows him and his family to live far from Florence
 - B. Dante is confident that his reputation as an intellectual will provide him with well-paid diplomatic assignments at the Italian courts of the 14th century
 - C. Dante's literary works have always been well paid by the Italian lords who gave hospitality to the Poet
 - D. Even far from Florence Dante will not need 'bread', that is, metaphorically, the scientific and philosophical subjects to reflect and write on

(You have reached the end of SECTION A. Review the answers you provided in SECTION A before inserting them in the table in SECTION B, as per the instructions provided on page 7-8.)

SECTION B

Follow these instructions on how to fill out the final table in this section (page 8):

1. Insert the capital letter matching the correct answer for each of the 12 questions in SECTION A.

Example: if, in SECTION A, you determined that the correct answer to question number 1 is represented by the option indicated by the capital letter “C”, in the final table of SECTION B (page 8), insert the capital letter “C”, as shown in the sample table below:

QUESTION NUMBER	ANSWER	POINTS
1	C	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
TOTAL POINTS		
SCORE*		/100
LEVEL ATTAINED	* Minimal score to qualify for C1 certification = 60/100 * Minimal score to qualify for C2 certification = 75/100	

2. Fill out exclusively the boxes in the “ANSWER” column.
3. For the purposes of this examination, feel free to use SECTION A of the paper as your working “notebook”. In SECTION A, write whatever notes might aid you in your comprehension and edit your answers as you see fit.
4. Beware that the examiners shall assign you a grade exclusively on the basis of the accuracy of the answers you provide in the table in SECTION B.

Fill out the table below with your final answers. Be advised that the examiners shall regard any evidence of the insertion of a correction in any of the boxes in the "ANSWER" column, as evidence that you have answered incorrectly.

Factor in the time to fill out the table with the necessary care, therefore, and avoid making transcription errors.

QUESTION NUMBER	ANSWER	POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
TOTAL POINTS		
SCORE*		/100
LEVEL ATTAINED	* Minimal score to qualify for C1 certification = 60/100 * Minimal score to qualify for C2 certification = 75/100	

(You have reached the end of this examination paper.)