

PROBAT¹

LATIN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION

LEVELS C1 and C2 (*Proficient User*) – May 4th, 2021

¹Examination 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 excerpt taken from the *Secretum* by Francis Petrarch. Read it carefully.
Note: A brief Introduction (“Context”) precedes the text.
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:

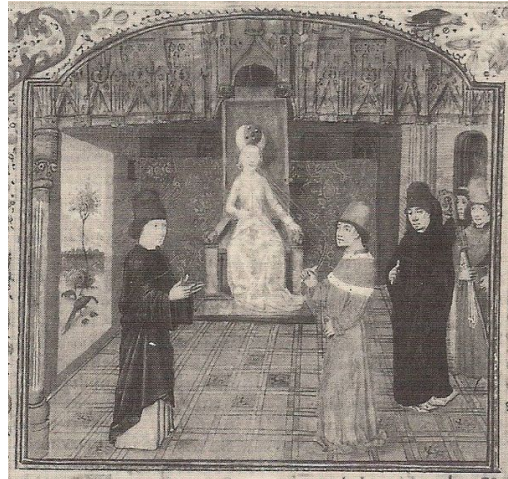
1. a table for you to fill out on page 8

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.

CONTEXT

Francis Petrarch (1304-1374) is widely regarded as one of the most important Italian poets of the 14th century. Among his works is the *Secretum* (*De secreto conflictu curarum mearum*), an introspective dialogue between two characters, namely, "Franciscus," or Petrarch himself, and "Augustinus," or St. Augustine (354 – 430 C.E.), the celebrated Church Father. Both speakers converse in the presence of "Veritas," an allegorical figure of "Truth".

Petrarch's Latin is a living language, even if heavily influenced by classical models. As shown in the excerpt below, it shares some phonetic features in common with the Florentine "volgare," such as the use of the monophthong "e" in place of the diphthong "ae".



Source: Illuminated manuscript of Francis Petrarch's *Secretum*. Brugge, Grootseminarie. MS. 113/78 fol. 1r. Made in 1470 for Jan Crabbe, Abott of Ter Duinen (1457–1488).

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Secretum.jpg>

SECTION A

1. TEXT

Augustinus [...] *Sed quis erit finis aut quis modus? Prefige tibi metam, ad quam cum perveneris subsistes et aliquando respices. Scis illud humano ore prolatum oraculi vim habere:*

"Semper avarus eget; certum voto pete finem"².

Quis autem cupiditatibus tuis erit finis?

Franciscus *Nec egere, nec abundare; nec preesse nec subesse aliis, finis est meus.*

Augustinus *Humanitatem exuas oportet et deus fias, ut tibi non egere contingat. An ignoras ex cunctis animalibus egentissimum esse hominem?*

Franciscus *Audieram sepissime, sed integrari memoriam velim.*

Augustinus *Aspice nudum et informem inter vagitus et lacrimas nascentem, exiguo lacte solandum, tremulum atque reptantem, opis indigum aliene, quem muta pascunt animalia et vestiunt; caduci corporis, animi inquieti, morbis obsessum variis, subiectum passionibus innumeris, consilii inopem, alterna letitia et tristitia fluctuantem, impotentem arbitrii, appetitus cohibere nescium; quid quantum ve sibi expediat, quis cibo potuique modus ignorantem; cui alimenta corporis, ceteris animalibus in aperto posita, multo labore conquerenda sunt; quem somnus inflat, cibus distendit, potus precipitat, vigilie extenuant, fames contrahit, sitis arefacit; avidum timidumque, fastidientem possessa, perdita deplorantem et presentibus simul et preteritis et futuris anxium; superbientem inter miserias suas et fragilitatis sibi conscium; vilissimis vermibus imparem, vite brevis, etatis ambigue, fati inevitabilis, ac mille generibus mortis expositum.*

Franciscus *Coacervasti miserias infinitas atque egestates, ut pene iam me hominem natum esse peniteat.*

² Horace, *Ep.*, 1.2.56.

Augustinus *In hac tanta hominum imbecillitate tantaque penuria, tu tibi copiam ac potentiam auspicaris, que nullis Cesaribus nullisque unquam regibus perfecta contigerit.*

Franciscus *Quisnam his vocabulis usus est? quis seu copiam seu potentiam nominavit?*

Augustinus *At que maior copia quam non egere? que maior potentia quam non subesse? Profecto enim reges dominique terrarum, quos opulentissimos reris, innumerabilibus rebus egent. Ipsi quoque duces exercituum, quibus preesse videntur subsunt et, ab armatis legionibus obsessi, per quas metuuntur, vicissim metuant oportet. Desine iam impossibilia sperare et, humana sorte contentus, abundare et egere, preesse pariter et subesse condiscas; neu, his moribus degens, fortune iugum, quo colla regum premuntur, excutias; quod tum demum excidisse tibi noveris, cum, calcatis passionibus humanis, totus sub virtutis imperium concesseris, liber illic futurus, nulla egens re, nulli subiectus hominum, denique rex et vere potens absoluteque felix.*

Franciscus *Iam piget incepti, cupioque nichil cupere; sed consuetudine rapior perversa sentioque inexpletum quiddam in precordiis meis semper.*

Augustinus *Hoc est, ut propositum spectet oratio, hoc est quod te a cogitatione mortis avertit, dum terrenis solitudinibus implicitus oculos ad altiora non erigis. [...]*

[Excerpted from: Francis Petrarch, *Secretum*, Book 2]

2. QUESTIONS

1. Petrarch's excerpt above may be thought of as being made up of three separate sections, each of which serves a distinct communicative function. Which of the answers below matches the exact order in which Petrarch arranges each one of the said three sections?

- A. argumentative / descriptive / argumentative
- B. descriptive / argumentative / prescriptive
- C. descriptive / descriptive / argumentative
- D. prescriptive / argumentative / descriptive

2. One of the sentences below sums up Augustinus's overall argument. Identify it.

- A. *humana sorte contentus, abundare et egere, preesse pariter et subesse condiscas*
- B. *An ignoras ex cunctis animalibus egentissimum esse hominem?*
- C. *Humanitatem exuas oportet et deus fias*
- D. *superbientem inter miserias suas et fragilitatis sibi conscium*

3. What is the overall meaning of the excerpt above, when considering the respective points of view of Franciscus and of Augustinus?

- A. Franciscus and Augustinus disagree
- B. Franciscus comes round to Augustinus's point of view
- C. Augustinus comes round to Franciscus's point of view
- D. In the course of the dialogue, both Franciscus and Augustinus modify their initial viewpoint

4. *Ipsi quoque duces exercituum, quibus preesse videntur subsunt et, ab armatis legionibus obsessi, per quas metuuntur, vicissim metuant oportet.*

In this passage, the argument proceeds by paradoxes, antitheses, and polyptota. Their use may be said to bring attention to:

- A. The successes and reversals of the powerful
- B. The fact that the powerful should fear those over whom they exercise their power
- C. The fact that whoever wields power seeks protection in the strength of arms
- D. The fact that we need to fear whomever is in power

5. *liber illic futurus, nulla egens re, nulli subiectus hominum, denique rex et vere potens absoluteque felix.* The state of things described in this passage is the end result of:

- A. a shared quest
- B. the teachings of an ancient philosopher
- C. the dialogue with a Church Father
- D. a personal journey

6. While speaking to Franciscus, Augustinus ends up assigning a sort of primacy to mankind in view of its:

- A. neediness
- B. power
- C. ability to adapt to changing circumstances
- D. riches

7. In the Proemium to his *Secretum*, Petrarch states that he did not intend it for publication. Which of the following lines implies that the Poet is in fact writing with a hypothetical reader in mind and thinking of his or her comprehension needs?

- A. *Prefige tibi metam*
- B. *Audieram sepissime, sed integrari memoriam velim*
- C. *Quisnam his vocabulis usus est?*
- D. *Desine iam impossibilia sperare*

8. *Desine iam impossibilia sperare et, humana sorte contentus, abundare et egere, preece pariter et subesse condiscas; neu, his moribus degens, fortune iugum, quo colla regum premuntur, excutias*
In this passage, the conjunction *neu* coordinates two sentence elements. Identify them.

- A. *condiscas – degens*
- B. *contentus – degens*
- C. *desine – excutias*
- D. *condiscas – excutias*

9. *neu, his moribus degens, fortune iugum, quo colla regum premuntur, excutias; quod tum demum excidisse tibi noveris*

What is the function of **quod** in this passage?

- A. causal
- B. declarative
- C. prolepsis of the relative
- D. connecting relative

10. In the excerpt given above, the verb "*precipitat*" is used to mean

- A. precipitates
- B. drops
- C. brings to ruin
- D. accelerates

11. The semantic fields listed below are taken from the excerpt given above. One of them includes an extraneous element. Identify it.

- A. human frailty (*imbecillitate, egestates, caduci*)
- B. suffering/shame (*piget, paeniteat, tristitia*)
- C. power (*rex, imperium, potentiam*)
- D. natural instincts (*somnus, potus, vigilie*)

12. *Aspice nudum et informem inter vagitus et lacrimas nascentem, exiguo lacte solandum, tremulum atque reptantem, opis indigum aliene...* In this passage, Petrarch introduces the *topos* about human frailty from birth. That same *topos* is found in the works of:

- A. Lucretius
- B. Pliny the Younger
- C. Catullus
- D. Virgil

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.)