

Classical Literacy Exam - Sample questions (list 1)

Introductory Exam

1. What Latin phrase means “with the highest praise”?
2. What son of Daedalus flew too close to the sun?
3. What adjective meaning “happy” derives from a Roman name for Zeus?
4. What Latin abbreviation means “for the sake of an example”?
5. What mythological hero cut off the head of Medusa?
6. What is the Roman numeral for 1000?
7. What is the Greek name for Cupid?
8. What is the Latin term for the male head of a household?
9. What deities inspire the arts and sciences?
10. Who was the author of the *Iliad*?

Level I Exam

1. What abbreviation stands for the Senate and the Roman People?
2. What Latin phrase means “in place of the parent”?
3. What is the belief in many gods called?
4. What is the term given to the student who gives the “farewell” address at graduation?
5. What English adjective from the Latin word for boy means “childish”?
6. Who was the Greek goddess of victory?
7. What were the wars between Rome and Carthage called?
8. What Latin phrase means “Love conquers all”?
9. What is the sea to the east of Greece called?
10. What English word is derived from Latin roots meaning “all” and “knowing”?

Level II Exam

1. What Latin phrase means “Let the buyer beware”?
2. What is the term for art of prophecy based on the flight of birds?
3. Who was the faithful wife of Odysseus?
4. What is the term for a victory won at too great a price?
5. The abduction of whose wife brought about the Trojan War?
6. What is the Greek word for “city”?
7. What was the snake-entwined staff of Mercury or Hermes called?
8. What Latin abbreviation means “in the same place”?
9. Who gave Caesar’s funeral oration “Friends, Romans, Countrymen . . .”?
10. What is the Latin motto of the District of Columbia?

Level III Exam

1. What Greek playwright wrote the *Oresteia*?
2. What was the name of Aristotle’s school in Athens?
3. Who has provided us with an eyewitness account of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius?
4. What is the Greek word for excellence?
5. What presocratic philosopher said, “you can’t step in the same river twice”?
6. What are the first seven words of Caesar’s commentaries on the Gallic Wars?
7. What philosophy did Lucretius’ *De rerum natura* espouse?
8. What is the rhetorical term for the conclusion of a speech?
9. What philosopher illustrated his distinction between the visible and intelligible realms by a twice-divided line?
10. What Greek writer is considered the father of history?