



L-Università  
ta' Malta

MATSEC  
Examinations Board



## Specimen Papers

SEC 21 Latin

**2026**

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# Specimen Assessments: Controlled Paper Level 1-2-3 (Private Candidates)



L-Università  
ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL**  
**SAMPLE PAPER**

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SUBJECT: **Latin**  
PAPER NUMBER: I  
DATE:  
TIME: 2 hours

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**This paper is worth 30% of the global mark.**

## SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

### Passage 1

(Total:  | 20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and answer **ALL** the questions that follow in **ENGLISH**.

#### Europa and the Bull

*Jupiter uses one of his standard tricks - changing his form - to win the love of a beautiful maiden.*

Europam, filiam Agenoris, Iuppiter, rex deorum, vidit. victus amore eius, dixit, "sine **hac bella femina** ego non potero vivere. sed quid agam? haec virgo, si eam vi superabo, me non amabit, et Iuno, uxor mea, si insidias meas inveniet, me castigabit. arte igitur Europam ad me ducere debeo.

Iuppiter sibi dedit formam tauri. cum celeritate e sua arce in caelo per nubes ad terram cucurrit. Europa cum suis amicis erraverat in **loca remota**. ad has venit ille magnus taurus. fugerunt aliae puellae; sola Europa (nam animalia semper amaverat) remansit cum tauro. collum eius suis brachiis Europa tenuit; sine mora trans **mare** ille eam **traxit!**

Europa periculum sensit et 'O!' exclamavit. dixit Iuppiter, 'pulchra femina, nullae malae sententiae sunt in meo animo. non taurus, sed deus ego sum. non mors, sed fama gloriaque tibi venient, nam tuum nomen magni poetae cum meo jungent.

*(Adapted from '38 Latin Stories')*

**Vocabulary:**

**Europa, -ae, f.:** Europa

**Agēnor, -oris, m.:** Agenor, king of Tyre in Phoenicia

**quid agam?:** what should I do? (deliberative subjunctive)

1. What does Jupiter fear will happen if he uses force to win Europa’s love? (2)

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2. How does Jupiter transform himself to approach Europa, and why? (2)

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3. What is Europa doing when Jupiter arrives disguised as a bull? (2)

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4. How does Europa initially react to the bull? (2)

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5. What happens after Europa embraces the bull’s neck? (2)

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6. What promise does Jupiter make to Europa at the end of the passage? (2)

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7. Identify the following parts of speech and explain their grammatical role in the sentence, (6)

a. hac bella femina, \_\_\_\_\_

b. loca remota, \_\_\_\_\_

c. mare. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Give the **FOUR** principal parts of the verb "traxit". (2)

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**Passage 2**

(Total:  | 20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and answer **ALL** the questions that follow in **ENGLISH**.

**Settling a dispute**

*The people of Carthage and Cyrene in North Africa settle a desert boundary dispute in a drastic way.*

olim Carthaginienses cum Cyrensisibus de finibus disputabant. inter has urbes erat magno regio deserta, ubi nihil erat quo agri dividi poterant. copiae et Carthaginiensium et Cyrenensium multis proeliis factis paene deletae erant. timebant igitur ne ab aliis hostibus oppugnarentur. itaque hoc consilium ceperunt: 'legati et a nobis et a vobis in regionem desertam mittentur; ubi convenient, eo loco finem faciemus.'

deinde Carthaginienses duobus fratribus, imperaverunt ut legati irent; qui ab urbe statim profecti celerrime iter fecerunt. Cyrenenses tamen **lentius** euntes pauca milia passuum progressi sunt. ubi convenerunt, hi timebant ne domum regressi **punirentur**. itaque vituperabant Carthaginienses: 'vos sine dubio ante tempus profecti estis!' tum illi rogaverunt quomodo Cyrenenses rem constiturere vellent. Cyrenenses responderunt: si vivi hic obrui vultis, hunc finem faciemus; si non vultis, nos finem deligemus et ibi nos vivi obruemur.' tum duo fratres Carthaganienses condicione dira accepta in illo ipso loco vivi obruti sunt.

*(Adapted from 'Latin Stories')*

**Vocabulary:**

**agri, -orum**, m. pl.: territory

**obruo, -ere, -i, -itus**: I bury

1. Translate "olim" to "faciemus". (8)

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2. Who were chosen as the representatives for the Carthaginians, and what was notable about their journey? (2)

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3. Why did the Cyrenians accuse the Carthaginian representatives, and what were their concerns? (2)

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4. What proposal did the Cyrenians offer to resolve the dispute after the accusations? (2)

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5. What was the ultimate fate of the Carthaginian representatives, and what does this suggest about their commitment to the agreement? (2)

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6. Identify the following parts of speech and explain their grammatical role in the sentence, (4)

- a. lentius, \_\_\_\_\_
- b. punirentur. \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION B: LANGUAGE USE

(Total:  | 10 marks)

Fill in **EACH** blank with **ONE** suitable word. The first one has been done for you.

dum Perseus, filius Iovis per caelum **volat**, guttae sanguinis Medusae \_\_\_\_\_ sacco \_\_\_\_\_ terram ceciderunt. e prima gutta Pegasus, equus volucer, factus \_\_\_\_\_; ex aliis \_\_\_\_\_, quae in Libyae arenam ceciderunt, serpentes facti \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ Perseus defessus advenit in terram quam gigas Atlas \_\_\_\_\_. Atlas poma aurea custodiebat; oraculo monitus erat ut \_\_\_\_\_ Iovis caveret. quod timebat \_\_\_\_\_ Perseus poma caperet, iuveni hospitium dare noluit. Perseus iratus \_\_\_\_\_ Medusae ei ostendit; Atlas lapideus factus est. mons igitur ingens, Atlas nomine, adhuc stat.

(Adapted from 'Latin Stories')



# Marking Schemes

# Specimen Assessments: Controlled Paper Level 2-3 (Private Candidates)



L-Università  
ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL**

**SAMPLE PAPER**

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SUBJECT: **Latin**

PAPER NUMBER: II

DATE:

TIME: 2 hours

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**This paper is worth 70% of the global mark.**

Answer **BOTH** sections. Answer **ALL** the questions in each section in **ENGLISH**.

**SECTION A: PROSE**

(Total:  | 50 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions set on it:

**Excerpt from Cicero 'Concern for the Health of a Former Slave' (*Ad Familiares XVI, 4, 1-3*)**

**TVLLIUS TIRONI SVO S. P. D. ET CICERO ET Q. FRATER ET Q. F.**

Varie sum adfectus tuis litteris, valde priore pagina perturbatus, paulum altera recreatus. qua re nunc quidem non dubito quin, quoad plane **valeas**, te neque navigationi neque viae committas. satis te mature videro, si plane confirmatum videro. de medico et tu bene existimari scribis et ego sic audio; sed plane curationes eius non probo; ius enim dandum tibi non fuit, quom **κακοστόμαχος** esses.

1. Expand and translate Cicero's greeting in this excerpt. (5)

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2. Write a short biographical note (c. 50 words) about the addressee of this letter. (4)

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3. How does Cicero react to the first and second parts of the letter he received? (4)

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4. In what mood, and why, is the verb "valeas"?(4)

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5. According to Cicero, what specific treatment does he disagree with? (4)

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6. Why do you think Cicero uses the Greek word κακοστόμαχος? (4)

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Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions set on it:

**Excerpt from Petronius 'The Werewolf' (Satyricon 61-62)**

cum adhuc servirem, habitabamus in Vico Angusto; nunc Gavillae domus est. ibi, quomodo dii volunt, amare coepi uxorem Terentii coptonis: noveratis Melissam Tarentinam, pulcherrimum bacciballum. si quid ab illa petii, nunquam mihi negatum; fecit assem, semissem habui; quidquid habui, in illius sinum demandavi, nec unquam fefellitus sum. huius contubernalis ad villam supremum diem obiit. itaque per scutum, per ocream, egi, aginavi, quemadmodum ad illam pervenirem; scitis autem, amici apparent.

7. Where did Niceros live while serving, and what is the current state of that location? (4)

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8. What adjective does Niceros use to describe Melissa, and what does it imply about her? (4)

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9. Translate from "si quid" to "sum". (5)

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10. What expression does Niceros use to describe their efforts to reach Melissa after her partner's death? (4)

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11. Give a brief summary of the werewolf story which shall be narrated by Niceros. (4)

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12. Where, and why was Niceros telling the story? (4)

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**SECTION B: POETRY**(Total:  | 50 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions set on it:

**Excerpt from Catullus 'It is all over' (8)**

Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire,

et quod vides perisse perditum ducas.

**fulsere** quondam candidi tibi soles,

cum ventitabas quo puella ducebat

amata nobis quantum amabitur nulla. 5

ibi illa multa cum iocosa fiebant,

quae tu volebas nec puella nolebat,

**fulsere** vere candidi tibi soles.

nunc iam illa non vult: tu quoque impotens noli,

nec quae fugit sectare, nec miser vive, 10

sed obstinata mente perfer, obdura.

1. Briefly write about the life of Catullus and discuss the relevance of this poem to the poet's life. (4)

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2. What does Catullus advise himself to do in the opening lines of the poem? (4)

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3. In line 5, what does Catullus imply about his feelings for the girl with the phrase "amata nobis quantum amabitur nulla"? (4)

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4. What is the significance of the repeated use of "fulsere" in the poem? (4)

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5. How does the poet emphasise his instructions to the self? (4)

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6. Translate lines 9-11 ("nunc iam ... obdura"). (5)

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Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions set on it:

**Excerpt from Vergil 'Aeneas and Turnus' (Aen. XII, 697-790)**

ergo amens diversa fuga petit aequora Turnus

et nunc huc, inde huc incertos implicat orbis;

undique enim densa Teucris inclusere corona

atque hinc vasta palus, hinc ardua moenia cingunt. 745

Nec minus Aeneas, quamquam tardata sagitta

interdum genua impediunt cursumque recusant,

insequitur trepidique pedem pede fervidus urget:

inclusum veluti si quando flumine nactus

cervum aut puniceae saeptum formidine pennae 750

venator cursu canis et latratibus instat;

**ille** autem, insidiis et ripa territus alta,

mille fugit refugitque vias, at vividus Umber

haeret hians, iam iamque tenet similisque tenenti

inrepuit malis morsuque elusus inani est. 755

tum vero exoritur clamor ripaeque lacusque  
responsant circa et caelum tonat omne tumultu.

7. Translate lines 1–4 (“ergo amens ... moenia cingunt”). (5)

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8. Why was Aeneas unable to run as fast as usual? (4)

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9. Identify the figure of speech in “cervum aut puniceae saeptum formidine pennae” (line 748) and comment on its effectiveness. (4)

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10. How does the word order in “venator cursu canis et latratibus instat;” (line 751) contribute to the meaning of the line? (4)

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11. Who is “ille” (line 752)? Give a brief sketch of the character. (4)

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12. In what metre is the “Aeneid” composed? Why did Vergil choose this metre for the “Aeneid”? (4)

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# Marking Schemes