

Specimen of Written Test
at Interview

Issued May 1998

'A' LEVEL STANDARD TEST IN LATIN

Time allowed: 1 hour

For candidates applying for Literae Humaniores Course I, Classics and English, and Classics and Modern Languages (after Classics Mods)

Translate into English.

Write on one side of the paper only and begin each piece on a separate sheet, labelling each sheet clearly with your name.

- (a) Alexander's men behave with devastating cruelty in the captured Persian capital.

neque avaritia solum, sed etiam crudelitas in capta urbe grassata est; auro argentoque onusti vilia captivorum corpora trucidabant, passimque obvii caedebantur, quos antea premium sui miserabiles fecerat. multi ergo hostium manus voluntaria morte occupaverunt, pretiosissima vestium induiti e muris se ipsos cum coniugibus ac liberis in praeceps iacentes. quidam ignes — quod paulo post facturus hostis videbatur — subiecerant aedibus, ut cum suis vivi cremarentur. tandem suos rex corporibus et cultu feminarum abstinere iussit.

(QUINTUS CURTIUS, *Alexander* 5.6.6-8)

grassor (l)	I run riot
onustus	weighed down
premium sui	their ransom
occupo (l)	I forestall

- (b) Caught off his guard, the poet is in love with two girls at once.

tu mihi, tu certe, memini, Graecine, negabas
uno posse aliquem tempore amare duas.
per te ego decipior, per te deprensus inermis
ecce duas uno tempore turpis amo.
utraque formosa est, operosae cultibus ambae,
artibus in dubio est haec sit an illa prior;
pulchrior hac illa est, haec est quoque pulchrior illa,
et magis haec nobis et magis illa placet.

(OVID, *Amores* 2.10.1-8)

operosus	painstaking
----------	-------------