

WJEC

Level 1 Certificate in Latin Literature

For summer 2012 and 2013 only

Prescribed text for Unit 9531
Latin Literature Themes

Theme A
otium

This is the official examination text for the
WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Literature 2012 and 2013

Martial, *Epigrams V.20*
The good life

If I were allowed, my dear Martial,
To enjoy carefree days with you,
If I were allowed to arrange leisure time
And to have time for a real life together,
We should not be familiar with the halls nor the houses of the powerful,
Nor grim lawsuits and the melancholy forum,
Nor proud statues,
But riding, plays, little books,
The Campus Martius, colonnades, shade, the Virgo aqueduct, baths,
These would be our constant haunts, these our occupations.
For the moment, neither of us lives for himself,
But each notices the good days fly by and vanish,
Days which are gone from us, but which are charged against our account.
Does anyone delay when he knows how to live?

Horace, *Epodes II.1-8, 23-8*
The pleasures of country life

Blessed is he who, far from business,
Like the ancient race of mortals,
Ploughs his family fields with his own oxen,
Free from all debt;
He is neither a soldier, roused by the stern war-trumpet,
Nor does he shudder in fear at the angry sea,
And he keeps clear of the forum and
The proud doorsteps of more powerful citizens.
It is pleasant to lie sometimes beneath an ancient holm-oak,
Sometimes in the firm grass.
Meanwhile the rivers slide between high banks,
Birds chatter in the woods,
Springs babble with trickling waters
Inviting gentle slumbers.

Catullus, Poem 13
Catullus invites a friend to dinner

You will dine well with me, my dear Fabullus,
In a few days (if the gods favour you),
If you bring with you a good, big meal,
Nor forgetting a pretty girl,
And wine and salt-wit and all kinds of laughter.
If, as I say, you bring these things, my charming friend,
You will dine well; for your Catullus' purse
Is full of cobwebs.
But in return, you will receive my undiluted affection,
Or what is sweeter and or more elegant:
For I shall give you a perfume, which
The Venuses and Cupids gave to my girlfriend,
And when you smell this perfume, Fabullus,
You will ask the gods to make you all nose.

Ovid, *Ars Amatoria* 1.89-100
A good place to find a girl

sed tu praecipue curvis venare theatris;
haec loca sunt voto fertiliora tuo.
illic invenies quod ames, quod ludere possis,
quodque semel tangas, quodque tenere velis.
ut redit itque frequens longum formica per agmen,
granifero solitum cum vehit ore cibum,
aut ut apes saltusque suos et olentia nactae
pascua per flores et thyma summa volant,
sic ruit ad celebres cultissima femina ludos;
copia iudicium saepe morata meum est.
spectatum veniunt, veniunt spectentur ut ipsae;
ille locus casti damna pudoris habet.

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Ovid, *Fasti* III.523-540 ***How ordinary people enjoy a festival***

Idibus est Annae festum geniale Perennae
non procul a ripis, advena Thybri, tuis.
plebs venit ac virides passim disiecta per herbas
potat et accumbit cum pare quisque sua;
sub love pars durat, pauci tentoria ponunt, 5
sunt quibus e ramis frondea facta casa est;
pars, ubi pro rigidis calamos statuere columnis,
desuper extentas imposuere togas.
sole tamen vinoque calent annosque precantur,
quot sumant cyathos, ad numerumque bibunt; 10
invenies illic qui Nestoris ebibat annos,
quae sit per calices facta Sibylla suos.
illic et cantant quidquid didicere theatris,
et iactant faciles ad sua verba manus
et ducunt posito duras cratera choreas, 15
cultaque diffusis saltat amica comis.
cum redeunt, titubant et sunt spectacula vulgi,
et fortunatos obvia turba vocat.

Pliny, *Letters* 3.5 ***A day in the life of Pliny the Elder***

Before dawn, my uncle Pliny used to go to the emperor Vespasian (for he too was accustomed to work through the night), then on to the duty assigned to him. When he returned home, he devoted his remaining time to his studies. Often after a snack (which being during the day was a light and easily digested meal as in the manner of our forefathers) in the summer, if there was any time for leisure, he used to lie in the sun; a book was read to him, and he would make notes and take extracts; for he read nothing from which he did not take extracts. Indeed he used to say that there was no book so bad that it was not useful in some part. After lying in the sun, he usually took a bath in cold water, then had a snack and had a very short nap; soon, as if it were a new day, he would study until dinner-time. During dinner, a book was read and notes taken, all very quickly.

These activities took place in the midst of his work and the bustle of the city. When he was away from the city, it was only bath-time that interrupted his studies (when I say “baths”, I am speaking of the inner rooms, for while he was being scraped and dried he used to listen to or dictate something). On a journey, as though released from all other cares, he devoted himself to this one thing; at his side with a book and writing tablets, was a secretary whose hands were protected in winter by gloves, so that not even the harshness of

the season should snatch any time away from study. For this reason he used to travel in Rome too in a litter. I recall that I was scolded by him, because I was walking; “You could have avoided,” he said, “wasting these hours”, for he believed that any time not spent on studies was wasted. Goodbye.

Pliny, Letters 7.24 ***Ummidia Quadratilla***

Ummidia Quadratilla paulo minus octogesimo aetatis anno decessit; erat femina usque ad novissimum morbum viridis, cuius corpus compactum et robustum erat, ultra matronalem modum.

testamentum eius erat optimum: reliquit heredes ex besse nepotem, ex tertia parte neptem. neptem vix novi, nepotem familiarissime diligo, iuvenem singularem quem etiam ei quos sanguine non attingit tamquam propinquum amant. nam primum, quamquam pulcherrimus erat, et puer et iuvenis omnes sermones malignorum vitavit; deinde intra quartum et vicensimum annum maritus fuit et, si deus adnuisset, fuisset pater. 5

vixit apud aviam delicatam severissime et tamen obsequentissime. habebat illa pantomimos fovebatque, effusius quam decorum erat feminae nobili. hos Quadratus non in theatro, non domi spectabat, nec illa postulabat. cum studia nepotis sui mihi mandaret, dixit se solere, ut feminam in illo otio sexus, laxare animum lusu calculorum, solere spectare pantomimos suos, sed cum factura esset alterutrum, semper se nepoti suo imperavisse ut abiret studeretque; quod mihi non solum amore facere sed etiam reverentia videbatur. 10 15 20

miraberis, et ego miratus sum: proximis sacerdotalibus ludis, productis in commissione pantomimis, cum simul ego et Quadratus theatro egrederemur, dixit mihi: ‘scisne me hodie primum vidisse saltantem aviae meae libertum?’ hoc nepos. at hercle alienissimi homines in honorem Quadratillae (pudet me dixisse honorem) adulatione in theatrum cursitabant exsultabant plaudebant mirabantur: deinde singulos gestus dominae cum canticis reddebant; qui nunc minima legata pro praemio accipient ab herede, qui eos numquam spectabat. vale. 25 30