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Latin
Higher level
Paper 1

5 May 2026

Zone A afternoon | **Zone B** afternoon | **Zone C** afternoon

2 hours

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer the questions relating to both extracts in one option.
- A dictionary is permitted for this examination paper.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

Answer **one** option. Answer **all** questions relating to **both** extracts in that option.

Option A

Extract 1: Prose — Seneca, *Letters* 54.1–3

After a period of good health, Seneca has another asthmatic attack. In a letter to his friend Lucilius, he reflects on his illness and the thought of death.

longum mihi commeatum¹ dederat mala valetudo; repente me invasit. “quo genere?” inquis. prorsus merito interrogas; adeo nullum mihi ignotum est. uni tamen morbo quasi adsignatus sum, quem quare Graeco nomine² appellem nescio; satis enim apte dici suspirium³ potest. brevis autem valde et procellae similis est impetus; intra horam fere desinit. omnia corporis
5 aut incommoda aut pericula per me transierunt; nullum mihi videtur molestius. quidni? aliud enim quicquid est, aegrotare est, hoc animam egerere. itaque medici hanc “meditationem⁴ mortis” vocant. faciet enim aliquando spiritus ille, quod saepe conatus est. hilarem me putas haec tibi scribere, quia effugi? tam ridicule facio, si hoc fine quasi bona valitudine delector, quam ille, quisquis vicisse se putat, cum vadimonium⁵ distulit. ego vero et in ipsa suffocatione non desii
10 cogitationibus laetis ac fortibus adquiescere.

¹ *commeatus, us* (m): break, respite

² *Graeco nomine*: i.e., asthma

³ *suspirium, i* (n): shortness of breath

⁴ *meditatio, onis* (f): practice, exercise

⁵ *vadimonium, i* (n): bail, postponement of a trial

(Option A continues on the following page)

(Option A continued)

1. (a) *longum mihi ... me invasit* (line 1). State what Seneca tells his friend about his health. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (b) *“quo genere?” ... mihi ignotum est* (lines 1–2). State why it makes sense for Lucilius to ask Seneca about the type of illness. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [1]
- (c) *uni tamen ... suspirium potest* (lines 2–3). Outline what Seneca says about the illness from which he is suffering. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (d) *brevis autem ... me transierunt* (lines 4–5). Describe the asthma attacks Seneca experiences. Support your answer with **four** quotations from the Latin text. [4]
- (e) *nullum mihi videtur ... “meditationem mortis” vocant* (lines 5–7). Analyse what makes asthma worse than other diseases, according to Seneca. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [3]
- (f) *faciet enim ... conatus est* (line 7). State what Seneca says will happen in the future. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (g) Translate *hilarem me ... fortibus adquiescere* (lines 7–10). [16]

(Option A continues on page 5)

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(Option A continued)

Extract 2: Verse — Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura* 6.1225, 1230–1238

Lucretius describes the despair in Athens when the city is hit by the plague.

incomitata rapi certabant funera vasta.
 illud in his rebus miserandum magnopere unum
 aerumnabile¹ erat, quod ubi se quisque videbat
 implicitum morbo, morti damnatus ut esset,
 5 deficiens animo maesto cum corde iacebat,
 funera respectans animam amittebat ibidem.
 quippe etenim nullo cessabant tempore apisci²
 ex aliis alios avidi contagia morbi,
 lanigeras tam quam pecudes et bucera saecla³,
 10 idque vel in primis cumulabat funere funus.

¹ *aerumnabilis, e* (adj.): wretched, miserable

² *apiscor, apisci, aptus sum*: to take, seize upon

³ *bucera saecla* (n pl.): horned cattle

Summary of Extract 2:

The most pitiable thing was the despair of the sick, who considered themselves condemned to death and gave up all hope. For the disease was extremely contagious, causing many deaths.

The following question refers to Extract 1 **and** Extract 2.

2. Contrast the attitudes to illness displayed by Seneca and the Athenians. Support your answer by quoting **precise** evidence from the Latin text of **both** extracts. [4]

The following question refers **only** to Extract 2.

3. Analyse how Lucretius portrays the devastating nature of the plague in this extract. Support your answer by quoting **precise** evidence from the Latin text. [6]

End of Option A

Option B

Extract 3: Verse — Catullus, *Carmina* 68.9–26

In a poem addressed to his friend Manlius, Catullus describes his emotional state after a personal loss.

- id gratum est mihi, me quoniam tibi dicis amicum
muneraque et Musarum hinc petis et Veneris¹.
sed tibi ne mea sint ignota incommoda², Manli,
neu me odisse putes hospitis officium³,
5 accipe, quis⁴ merser⁵ fortunae fluctibus ipse,
ne amplius a misero dona beata petas.
tempore quo primum vestis mihi tradita pura est,
iucundum cum aetas florida ver ageret,
multa satis lusi: non est dea nescia nostri,
10 quae dulcem curis miscet amaritiem.
sed totum hoc studium luctu fraterna mihi mors
abstulit. o misero frater adempte mihi,
tu mea tu moriens fregisti commoda, frater,
tecum una tota est nostra sepulta domus,
15 omnia tecum una perierunt gaudia nostra,
quae tuus in vita dulcis alebat amor.
cuius ego interitu tota de mente fugavi
haec studia atque omnes delicias animi.

¹ *munera ... Musarum ... et Veneris* (n pl.): “the gifts of the Muses and Venus,” i.e., love poetry

² *incommodum, i* (n): misfortune

³ *hospitis officium* (n): “duty of a friend”

⁴ *quis* = *quibus*

⁵ *merso, mersare, mersavi, mersatus*: to submerge, overwhelm

(Option B continues on the following page)

(Option B continued)

4. (a) *id gratum ... et Veneris* (lines 1–2). State what is pleasing to Catullus. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (b) *sed tibi ... beata petas* (lines 3–6). Outline the **three** things that Catullus wants to avoid by telling Manlius about his misfortune. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [3]
- (c) *tempore quo ... satis lusi* (lines 7–9). Describe Catullus's youth. Support your answer with **four** quotations from the Latin text. [4]
- (d) *non est ... miscet amaritiem* (lines 9–10). State what Catullus says the goddess does. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (e) *sed totum ... mors abstulit* (lines 11–12). Outline Catullus's current situation. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [3]
- (f) Translate *o misero ... delicias animi* (lines 12–18). [16]

(Option B continues on the following page)

(Option B continued)**Extract 4: Prose — Pliny, *Letters* 1.12.11–12**

Pliny mourns the loss of a dear friend.

cogito quo amico, quo viro caream. implevit quidem annum septimum et sexagensimum,
 quae aetas etiam robustissimis satis longa est; scio. evasit perpetuam valetudinem; scio.
 decessit superstitibus suis, florente re publica, quae illi omnibus carior erat; et hoc scio.
 ego tamen tamquam et iuvenis et firmissimi mortem doleo, doleo autem – licet me
 5 imbecillum putes – meo nomine. amisi enim, amisi vitae meae testem rectorem magistrum.

Summary of Extract 4:

Although his friend lived to old age and passed away in positive circumstances, Pliny expresses deep personal grief at the death of a mentor.

The following question refers to Extract 3 **and** Extract 4.

5. Compare and contrast the attitudes towards personal loss expressed by Catullus and Pliny. Support your answer by quoting **precise** evidence from the Latin text of **both** extracts. [4]

The following question refers **only** to Extract 4.

6. Analyse how Pliny uses language to portray his internal conflict. Support your answer by quoting **precise** evidence from the Latin text. [6]

End of Option B

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References:

- Extract 1** L. Annaeus Seneca, n.d. *Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales*. R. M. Gummere (ed.), 1917. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Latin/navigate/129/6/2/> [Accessed 1 April 2025]. Source adapted.
- Extract 2** T. Lucretius Caro, n.d. *De Rerum Natura*. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Latin/navigate/82/6/40/5/> [Accessed 1 April 2025]. Source adapted.
- Extract 3** G. Valerius Catullus, n.d. *Carmina*. E. T. Merrill (ed.), 1893. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Latin/navigate/9/3/4/> [Accessed 1 April 2025]. Source adapted.
- Extract 4** G. Plinius Caecilius Secundus, n.d. *Epistulae*. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Latin/navigate/114/1/12/> [Accessed 1 April 2025]. Source adapted.