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Latin
Standard level
Paper 1

5 May 2026

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

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer the questions in one option.
- A dictionary is permitted for this examination paper.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.

Answer **all** questions in **one** option.

Option A

Prose — Quintus Curtius, *History of Alexander* 3.2.10–15

The Persian king Darius is about to fight Alexander’s Macedonian army. He asks for advice from Charidemus, an Athenian general with knowledge of Alexander’s tactics.

admodum laetus purpuratis¹ solita vanitate spem eius inflantibus conversus ad Charidemum, Atheniensem belli peritum et ob exilium infestum Alexandro — quippe Athenis iubente eo fuerat expulsus —, percontari coepit, satisne ei videretur instructus² ad obterendum hostem. at ille et suae sortis et regiae superbiae oblitus: “verum”, inquit, “et tu forsitan audire nolis et ego,
5 nisi nunc dixero, alias³ nequiquam confitebor. Macedonum acies, torva sane et inculta, clipeis hastisque immobiles cuneos et conferta robora virorum tegit. ipsi phalangem vocant, peditum stabile agmen: vir viro, armis arma conserta sunt. ad nutum monentis⁴ intenti sequi signa, ordines servare didicerunt: quod imperatur, omnes exaudiunt. obsistere, circumire, discurrere in cornu, mutare pugnam non duces magis quam milites callent. ac ne auri argentique studio
10 teneri putes, adhuc illa disciplina paupertate magistra stetit.”

¹ *purpuratus, i (m)*: officer in a king’s court

² *instruo, instruere, instruxi, instructum*: to prepare for

³ *alias* (adv.): at another time

⁴ *moneo, monui, monitus*: to command, instruct

(Option A continues on the following page)

(Option A continued)

1. (a) *admodum laetus ... eius infantibus* (line 1). Explain why Darius was feeling very pleased. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (b) *Atheniensem belli ... fuerat expulsus* (lines 2–3). Explain why Darius turned to Charidemus. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (c) *percontari coepit ... obterendum hostem* (line 3). State what Darius asked Charidemus. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (d) *at ille ... superbiae oblitus* (line 4). Identify what Charidemus forgot about when replying to Darius. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (e) “*verum*”, *inquit ... nequiquam confitebor* (lines 4–5). Analyse why Charidemus decided to tell the truth, although Darius may not have wished to hear it. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (f) *Macedonum acies ... conserta sunt* (lines 5–7). Describe the Macedonian army. Support your answer with **four** quotations from the Latin text. [4]
- (g) Translate *ad nutum ... magistra stetit* (lines 7–10). [16]

End of Option A

Option B

Verse — Reposian, *De concubitu Martis et Veneris* 1–7; 11–22

In this poem, Reposian tells the story of the love between Mars and Venus, who was married to Vulcan. In this introduction, he summarizes the story and addresses the readers and Cupid.

discite securos non umquam credere amores.
 ipsa Venus, cui flamma potens, cui militat ardor,
 quae tuto posset custode Cupidine amare,
 quae docet et fraudes et amorum furta tuetur,
 5 nec sibi securas valuit praebere latebras.
 improbe, dure puer¹, crudelis crimine matris,
 pompam ducis, Amor², nullo satiate triumpho!
 gestet amans Mavors³ titulos⁴ et vincula portet
 captivus, quem bella timent; utque ipse veharis,
 10 iam roseis fera colla iugis submittat amator.
 post vulnus, post bella potens Gradivus⁵ anhelat
 in castris modo tiro tuis, semperque timendus
 te timet et sequitur qua ducunt vincla marita.
 ite, precor, Musae: dum Mars, dum blanda Cythere⁶
 15 imis ducta trahunt suspiria crebra medullis,
 dumque intermixti captatur spiritus oris,
 carmine doctiloquo⁷ Vulcani vincla parate,
 quae Martem nectant Veneris nec brachia laedant
 inter delicias roseo prope livida serto⁸.

¹ *puer*: referring to Cupid

² *Amor, ris* (m): Cupid

³ *Mavors* = Mars

⁴ *titulus, i* (m): label/tag put on enslaved people when they were up for sale

⁵ *Gradivus, i* (m): another name for Mars

⁶ *Cythere, es* (f): another name for Venus

⁷ *doctiloquus* (adj.): erudite, clever

⁸ *sertum, i* (n): a garland

(Option B continues on the following page)

(Option B continued)

2. (a) *discite securos ... credere amores* (line 1). State what the poet wants to teach the readers. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [1]
- (b) *ipsa Venus ... furta tuetur* (lines 2–4). Outline Venus’s characteristics. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [3]
- (c) *nec sibi ... praeberet latebras* (line 5). Outline what Venus was not able to do. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [1]
- (d) *improbe, dure ... satiate triumpho!* (lines 6–7). Outline how the poet describes Cupid. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [2]
- (e) *gestet amans ... submittat amator* (lines 8–10). Outline how Mars should submit to Cupid. Quotation of the Latin text is **not** required. [3]
- (f) *post vulnus ... vincla marita* (lines 11–13). Outline how Mars has been affected by love. Support your answer with **four** quotations from the Latin text. [4]
- (g) Translate *ite, precor ... livida sermo* (lines 14–19). [16]

End of Option B

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References:

- Option A** Q. Curtius Rufus, n.d. *Historiae Alexandri Magni*. E. Hedicke (ed.), 1908. [online] Available at: <https://artflsrv03.uchicago.edu/philologic4/Latin/navigate/72/1/2/> [Accessed 1 April 2025]. Source adapted.
- Option B** Reposian, *De concubitu Martis et Veneris. Poetae latini minores*, 1879. From “Recensuit et emendavit Aemilius Baehrens,” vol. IV. Teubneri, B.G., Lipsiae, 1882. Available at: https://books.google.com/books?id=qJYOAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=Discite%20securos%20non%20numquam%20credere%20amores.&f=false [Accessed 8 May 2026.]