



CSCP Support Materials: Translation

Eduqas GCSE Latin
Component 2

Latin Literature (Theme A)
Romans in the Countryside

For examination in 2024 - 2026

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Using this Document

Each section of the Latin text is displayed in three columns.

In the left-hand column is the Latin text. Line numbers corresponding to the official examination text are indicated in square brackets.

In the centre column is an accessible interpretation of its English meaning (not a literal translation).

Where this interpretation is **significantly** different from a literal translation of the Latin, a literal translation is provided in the right-hand column. Where this occurs, the relevant words of the Latin text, English meaning and literal translation are all marked with a dotted line underneath.

Where a word in the English meaning column enhances readability, but is not explicitly included in the Latin, it is given in square brackets: [...].

There are also a number of occasions where, in order to make the passage read more naturally in English, Latin verbs in the (historic) present tense have been translated as if they were in a past tense.

Again, to aid readability, translation of a Latin word equivalent to English 'and' has sometimes been omitted in the English meaning.

Latin

accusator esses ridiculus, si illis temporibus natus esses cum ab aratro arcessebantur qui consules fierent. tu enim, qui praeesse agro colendo flagitium putes, profecto illum Atilium, quem sua manu semen spargentem illi qui missi erant convenerunt, hominem turpissimum atque inhonestissimum iudicares. at [5] hercule maiores nostri longe aliter et de illo et de ceteris talibus viris existimabant itaque ex minima tenuissimaque re publica maximam et florentissimam nobis reliquerunt. suos enim agros studiose colebant, non alienos cupide appetebant; sic et agris et urbibus et nationibus rem publicam atque hoc imperium et populi [10] Romani nomen auxerunt.

English Meaning

CICERO, Traditional Values (Pro Roscio Amerino 50, 74-75)

You would be a ridiculous prosecutor, if you had been born in those times when men were summoned from the plough to become consuls. For you, who consider it a disgrace to be responsible for cultivating a farm, would certainly judge the famous Atilius, whom those who had been sent came across sowing seed with his own hand, to be [a] most shameful and low-class [fellow]. But, by Hercules, our ancestors thought differently both concerning him and concerning other such men, and so from a tiny and quite insignificant state they left us one that is very large and highly prosperous. They certainly cultivated their own farms intently, not greedily laying claim to those of others; in this way they expanded the state, this empire and the reputation of the Roman people with land and cities and [whole] nations.

Literal Translation

very insignificant

Latin**English Meaning****Literal Translation**

**CICERO, Traditional Values
(Pro Roscio Amerino 50, 74-75)
(continued)**

et simul tibi in mentem veniat quem ad modum vitam huiusce
depinxeris – hunc hominem ferum atque agrestem fuisse,
numquam cum homine quoquam conlocutum esse, numquam
in oppido constitisse. sed in rusticis moribus, in victu arido, in
hac horrida incultaque vita maleficia istius modi gigni non
solent. ut non omnem frugem neque arborem in omni agro
reperire possis, sic non omne facinus in omni vita nascitur. in
urbe luxuries creatur, ex luxuria existat avaritia necesse est,
ex avaritia erumpat audacia, inde omnia scelera ac maleficia
gignuntur. vita autem haec rustica quam tu agrestem vocas
parsimoniae, diligentiae, iustitiae magistra est.

[15]

[20]

It should also come to your attention how you have depicted the life of this man here – [saying that] he was rough and uncouth, that he never spoke to another person, never stayed in a town. But in country ways, in a simple lifestyle, in such a rough and uncivilised existence crimes of that kind are not usually committed. Just as you would not be able to find every crop or [every] tree in every field, so not every crime occurs in every [mode of] life. In the city extravagance is created, from extravagance it is natural for greed to emerge, from greed for violent behaviour to burst out, [and] from that all kinds of crimes and misdeeds are produced. This country life, on the other hand, which you call uncouth, is the teacher of thrift, hard work, and good conduct.

necessary

Latin

beatus ille qui procul negotiis,
ut prisca gens mortalium,
paterna rura bobus exercet suis
solutus omni faenore,
neque excitatur classico miles truci,
neque horret iratum mare,
forumque vitat et superba civium
potentiorum limina.
libet iacere modo sub antiqua ilice,
modo in tenaci gramine.
labuntur altis interim ripis aquae,
queruntur in silvis aves,
fontesque lymphis obstrepunt manantibus,
somnos quod invitet leves.

English Meaning

**HORACE, The pleasures of country living
(Epodes 2. 1-8, 23-28)**

*Blessed is the man who, far from business,
like the ancient race of mortals,
tills his ancestral land with his own oxen,
free from all debt;
neither a soldier, roused by the fierce war-trumpet,
nor [one who] dreads the angry sea,
keeping clear of the forum and the haughty
doorsteps of more powerful citizens.
It is pleasant to lie sometimes beneath an ancient holm-oak,
sometimes in the firm grass.
Meanwhile streams glide between high banks,
birds chatter in the woods,
springs gurgle with trickling sprays of water,
to invite gentle sleep.*

Literal Translation

keeps clear

Latin	English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>iam pauca aratro iugera regiae moles relinquent, undique latius extenta visentur Lucrino stagna lacu platanusque caelebs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Horace, The changing face of the countryside (Odes 2.15)</p> <p><i>Before long, aristocratic mansions will leave few acres for the plough, everywhere will be seen pools extending further than the Lucrine Lake, and the solitary plane tree</i></p>	<p><u>the thick laurel with its branches</u></p>
<p>evincet ulmos; tum violaria et myrtus et omnis copia narium spargent olivetis odorem fertilibus domino priori;</p>	<p>[5] <i>will wipe out the elms; then beds of violets and myrtle bushes and a whole host of smells will sprinkle their scent on olive groves once productive for their previous owners;</i></p>	
<p>tum <u>spissa ramis laurea</u> fervidos excludet ictus. non ita Romuli praescriptum et intonsi Catonis auspiciis veterumque norma.</p>	<p>[10] <i>then <u>laurels with their thick branches</u> will keep out the burning rays. Not thus was it laid down in the instructions of Romulus and bearded Cato and the custom of past generations.</i></p>	
<p>privatus illis census erat brevis, commune magnum; nulla decempedis metata privatis opacam porticus excipiebat Arcton,</p>	<p>[15] <i>For them private wealth was small, public wealth large; no portico measured out with private surveying equipment received the shady northern light,</i></p>	

Latin

English Meaning

Literal Translation

**Horace, The changing face of the countryside
(Odes 2.15) (continued)**

nor did the laws allow [people] to reject

a handy [piece of] turf, [while] ordering them

to decorate their towns at public expense and

the temples of the gods with newly-cut stone.

nec fortuitum spernere caespitem

leges sinebant, oppida publico

sumptu iubentes et deorum

templa novo decorare saxo.

[20]

Latin

vis Sabinorum ingens prope ad moenia urbis infesta populatione venit. foedati agri, terror iniectus urbi est. tanta trepidatio fuit quanta si urbem, non castra hostes obsiderent. itaque civibus dictatorem dici placuit qui rem percussam restitueret, et Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus consensu omnium dicitur.

spes unica imperii populi Romani, Quinctius trans Tiberim, contra eum ipsum locum ubi nunc navalia sunt, quattuor iugerum colebat agrum, quae prata Quinctia vocantur. ibi ab legatis – seu fossam fodiens palae innixus, seu cum araret, operi certe (id quod constat) agresti intentus – salute data in vicem redditaque rogatus est ut togatus mandata senatus audiret. admiratus rogitansque 'satin salve?' uxorem togam propere e tugurio proferre iubet. qua simul absterso pulvere ac sudore velatus processit, dictatorem eum legati gratulantes consalutant, in urbem vocant; qui terror sit in exercitu exponunt.

English Meaning

*Livy, Cincinnatus, summoned from the plough
(History 3.26)*

A huge force of Sabines, with terrible devastation, came almost to the walls of the city. The fields [were] laid waste, the city was struck with terror. There was as great a panic as if the enemy were besieging the city, not the camp. Therefore, the citizens decided that a dictator should be appointed to restore the shattered state, and Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus was chosen by the consent of all.

Quinctius, the sole hope of the power of the Roman people, cultivated a farm of four acres, which are now called the Quinctian meadows, across the Tiber, opposite the very place where the docks now are. There

– whether leaning on a stake while digging a ditch, or while ploughing, certainly (as is generally accepted) engrossed in some farming [task] – after greetings had been given in turn and responded to, he was asked by the envoys to listen to the commands of the senate, once he was dressed in his toga.

Bewildered, and asking continually 'Is everything quite all right?' he ordered his wife to bring his toga quickly from their cottage. As soon as he stepped forward dressed in it, after wiping off the dust and sweat, the envoys, congratulating him, hailed him as dictator, called him into the city and explained what terror there was in the army.

Literal Translation

terror was instilled in the city

it seemed good to the citizens that who would restore

Latin

spargitur et caeso communis Terminus agno,
nec queritur lactans cum sibi porca datur.
conveniunt celebrantque dapes vicinia simplex
et cantant laudes, Termine sancte, tuas.

English Meaning

Ovid, A rustic festival
(Fasti 2.641-658) (continued)

[15]

Terminus is also sprinkled by both sides with a sacrificed lamb,
and he doesn't complain when he is given an unweaned piglet
They all come together, this simple community, celebrating [your] feast
and singing your praises, holy Terminus.

Literal Translation

shared Terminus
an unweaned piglet
if given to him
and celebrate
and sing

Latin

C. PLINIUS CORNELIO TACITO SUO S.

ridebis, et licet rideas. ego, ille quem nosti, apros tres et quidem pulcherrimos cepi. 'ipse?' inquis. ipse; non tamen ut omnino ab inertia mea et quiete discederem. ad retia sedebam; erat in proximo non venabulum aut lancea, sed stilus et pugillares; meditabar aliquid enotabamque, ut si manus vacuas, plenas tamen ceras reportarem. non est quod contempnas hoc studendi genus; mirum est ut animus agitatione motuque corporis excitetur; iam undique silvae et solitudo ipsumque illud silentium quod venationi datur, magna cogitationis incitamenta sunt. proinde cum venabere, licebit auctore me ut panarium et lagunculam sic etiam pugillares feras: experieris non Dianam magis montibus quam Minervam inerrare. vale.

English Meaning

PLINY, A day's hunting (Letters 1.6)

Caius Pliny sends greetings to his dear Cornelius Tacitus.

You will laugh, and you may well laugh. I, the man whom you know [all about], have caught three boars – and very fine ones too! 'You?' you say. [Yes], me: not, however, so that I totally abandoned my usual inactivity and peacefulness. I sat close to the nets; beside me was, not a hunting-spear or a javelin, but my pen and writing-tablets.

[5]

I was thinking something [over] and jotting it down, so that, even if I brought back empty hands, I should at least bring back full tablets. This kind of studying is not something that you should frown on; it is amazing how the mind is stimulated by the exercise and motion of the body; the woods already all around, and the solitude, and that

[10]

very silence which is devoted to hunting, are all great stimulants to thought.

Accordingly, when you [next] go hunting, on my advice you should also take your writing-tablets, just like your picnic-basket and your drinking-flask: you will find that Diana does not roam on the hills any more than Minerva. Goodbye.

Literal Translation

with me as adviser
it will be allowed
that you take ...

Latin

C. PLINIUS POMPEIO FALCONI SUO S.

refugeram in Tuscos, ut omnia ad arbitrium meum facerem. at hoc ne in Tuscis quidem: tam multis undique rusticorum libellis et tam querulis inquietor, quos aliquanto magis invitus quam meos lego – nam et meos invitus. retracto enim actiunculas quasdam – quod, post intercapedinem temporis, et frigidum et acerbum est. rationes quasi absente me negliguntur. interdum tamen equum conscendo et patrem familiae hactenus ago, quod aliquam partem praediorum, sed pro gestatione percurro. tu consuetudinem serva, nobisque sic rusticis urbana acta perscribe. vale.

English Meaning

PLINY, The burdens of an estate owner
(Letters 9.15)

Caius Pliny sends greetings to his dear Pompeius Falco.

I had escaped to Tuscany, in order to do everything to my liking. But this proved impossible, even in Tuscany: I am harassed by so many petitions and so many grumbles from the country [folk] on all sides, which

[5] I read considerably more reluctantly than my own – for I am also reluctant to read my own. For I am revising some of my shorter cases – which, after such a long period of time, is both tedious

and painful. My account-books are being neglected, as though I were not even here. Occasionally,

however, I get on my horse and perform as the head of the community, to the extent that

I gallop round one or other part of my estates – but [only] for a ride.

[10] Do keep up your usual custom, and write in detail the news of the city to us who have become so countryfied. Goodbye.

Literal Translation

written requests

with me absent

act to some extent as the father of the family

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>namque sub Oebaliae memini me turribus arcis, qua niger umectat flaventia culta Galaesus, Corycium vidisse senem, cui pauca relict iugera ruris erant, nec fertilis illa iuven nec pecori opportuna seges nec commoda Baccho. hic rarum tamen in dumis olus albaque circum lilia verbenasque premens vescu regum aequabat opes animis seraque revertens nocte domum dapibus mensas onerabat inemptis. primus vere rosam atque autumn carpere poma, et cum tristis hiems etiamnum frigore saxa rumperet et glacie cursus frenaret aquarum, ille comam mollis iam tondebat hyacinthi aestatem increpitans seram Zephyrosque morantes.</p>	<p>[5]</p> <p>[10]</p>	<p>VIRGIL, A self-sufficient farm (Georgics 4.125-143)</p> <p><i>I certainly remember that, beneath the towers of the citadel of Tarentum where the dark Galaesus waters the yellow crops, I saw an old Cilician, to whom belonged a few acres of abandoned land, that was neither productive for oxen nor decent grazing for flocks nor any use for vines.</i></p> <p><i>He, however, [by] planting the occasional cabbage in the brambles and white lilies all around and verbenas and spindly poppies, equalled in his mind the wealth of kings and, returning home late at night, he would load his table with an unbought feast.</i></p> <p><i>He was the first in spring to gather roses, and in autumn [first to gather] apples, and when gloomy winter was still cracking rocks with frost and holding back flowing streams with ice, he was already cutting the threads of the delicate crocus, railing at the lateness of summer and the sluggish west winds.</i></p>	<p><i>to whom there were neither [was] that crop productive ...</i></p> <p><i>with unbought feasts a rose</i></p>

Latin	English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>ergo apibus fetis idem atque examine multo primus abundare et spumantia cogere pressis mella favis; illi tiliae atque uberrima pinus, quotque in flore novo pomis se fertilis arbor induerat, totidem autumnis matura tenebat.</p>	<p>VIRGIL, A self-sufficient farm (Georgics 4.125-143) (continued)</p> <p>[15] <i>So he was the first again to be rich in breeding bees and a large swarm and to extract foaming honey from the pressed combs; to him belonged lime trees and the most prolific pines, and however many fruits a fertile tree had dressed itself with, in its first blossom, it always bore the same amount of ripe fruit in autumn.</i></p>	