

## Novice 'Language Skills' Summary for National Certamen (compiled from Nationals 1986-95)

### \*basic facts

- 50% of questions are from this category
- covers vocabulary, grammar and syntax, forms and inflections, derivatives and etymology, translation, abbreviations and phrases, oral comprehension

### \*types of questions

- 'Differentiate in meaning between X and Y'
- 'What is an antonym/synonym of X?'
- 'Translate: (English or Latin sentence)'
- 'Change (verb form) to (diff. mood, tense, voice, number, person)'
- 'Change (noun form) to (diff. case and/or number)'
- 'What Latin noun/verb/adjective is the root of (English derivative)'
- entire commands in Latin for players to perform
- questions in Latin for players to answer in Latin (often with a number)
- 'What is the use of the (nom, gen, etc) in this sentence?'
- 'Which does not belong in the group: W, X, Y, Z'

\*diphthongs: two consecutive vowels pronounced as one syllable, like ae, au, ei, eu, oe, ui, and (in early Latin) ai, oi ou

### \*pronunciation: ultima, penult, antepenult

- in word of 2 syllables, accent is always on the 1st syllable (the penult)
- in word of 3 or more syllables,
  1. accent is on the penult if that syllable is long (amicus, elementum)
  2. accent is on the antepenult if penult is short (veritas, periculum)

### \*uses of the genitive

- 1-possession
- 2-objective
- 3-partitive/of the whole
- 4-description: expresses kind or measure; must be noun + a modifier  
[adulescens nullius consili; homines magnae virtutis]
- 5-with special adj's, such as peritus, cupidus, memor, plenus (sometimes with abl.), dignus (but usually takes abl. in prose)
- 6-indefinite price/value [opera mea est parvi preti]
- 7-with special prep's, such as instar, causa, gratia, ergo (the last 3 are postpositive, i.e., preposition follows its object)

\*uses of the dative

- 1-compound verbs: ex's include praesum
- 2-special verbs: credo, placeo; impero, mando, persuadeo (the last three take the dative)
- 3-reference
- 4-purpose
- 5-double dative
- 6-possession
- 7-with certain adj's, such as idoneus, proximus, amicus, carus, dulcis, gratus, inimicus
- 8-compound verbs
- 9-agent: basically, only used with the passive periphrastic construction (occasionally with perf. pass. participle); no preposition, just the dative case by itself
- 10-indirect object

\*uses of the accusative

- 1-with prepositions, such as trans, ob, propter, extra, apud, per
- 2-direct object
- 3-duration of time: answers the question 'for how long?' [multos annos]
- 4-extent of space: answers the question 'how far?' [duo milia passuum; sex pedes]
- 5-subject accusative
- 6-predicate accusative

\*uses of the ablative

- 1-with prepositions, such as pro, sub, cum, a/ab, de, in, e/ex, sine, prae
- 2-place where with the prep's in and sub
- 3-place from which with the prep's a/ab, e/ex, and de
- 4-means
- 5-manner
- 6-agent
- 7-time
- 8-time within which
- 9-respect/specification
- 10-comparison
- 11-degree of difference
- 12-ablative absolute
- 13-with the 'PUFFV' deponent verbs

14-separation  
15-description

\*uses of the nominative

1-subject  
2-predicate subject

\*description: found in both the gen. and abl. cases

\*possession: found in both the gen. and dat. cases

\*in, sub, super, subter: prep's that take both the acc. and abl.

\*comments on regularities and irregularities in the 5 declensions:

-masc's of the 1st: 'PPAAIN' words (poeta, pirata, agricolus, auriga, incola, nauta)

-neuters of the 2nd in -us (not -um): vulgus, pelagus, virus, cetus

-some 3rd m/f i-stems have -im and -i in acc and abl sing: puppis, turris

-3rd nouns ending in -tas (-tatis) and -tudo (-tudinis) are always feminine

-all nouns of the 5th are fem. except dies and its compound meridies

(medius + dies)

-filiabus/deabus; di = dei; dis = deis

-gender: trees are fem; months are masc; indeclinables are neuter

-all nom pl neuters in -a (except quae, haec, duo, ambo)

\*locative and vocative

\*appositives

\*adjectives and adverbs: in positive, comparative, superlative - esp. the irregular comparison of adj's and adv's

\*important interrogative adverbs: quomodo, -ne/num/nonne, quo, ubi, unde, cur, quot, quantus, qualis, quam

\*meanings of quam: how, than, as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible (with superlative adj's/adv's), as

\*relative pronoun

-gets number and gender from antecedent (ante + cedo), but its case from its use in the relative clause

-sometimes, the relative pronoun is in the same case as its antecedent (despite its use in the relative clause) - then the relative pronoun gets its case 'by attraction' to its antecedent

\*interrogative

-pronoun: quis, quid in sing., but the same as relative pronoun in the pl.

-adjective: same as the relative pronoun)

\*reflexive (sui, sibi, se, se) vs. intensive (ipse, ipsa, ipsum) pronoun

\*personal pronouns

-1st: ego, mei, mihi, me, me; nos, nostrum (only with partitive) / nostri, nobis, nos, nobis

-2ns: tu, tui, tibi, te, te; vos, vestrum (only with partitive) / vestri, vobis, vos, vobis

-3rd: is, ea, id (he/him, she/her, it, they/them, his/her/its/their)

\*demonstratives: these pronouns 'point out or demonstrate' something; some of the forms are irregular and must be memorized; can be used as an adj. or noun

-hic, haec, hoc (this, these)

-ille, illa, illud (that, those)

-iste, ista, istud (that of yours, often used in a pejorative manner)

-idem, eadem, idem (same)

\*distributive adverbs: singuli (one apiece), bini (two apiece), terni (three apiece)

\*numeral adverbs: semel (once), bis (twice), ter (three times), quater (four times)

\*urbs: in prose, the proper name of the city is always in apposition to urbs (i.e., it has the same case and is not genitive; ex: 'in urbe Roma' = 'in the city (of) Rome' (not 'in urbe Romae' - this is found only in poetry)

\*'UNUS NAUTA' adj's: these have -ius in the gen. sing. and -i in the dat. sing., with other forms remaining normal

-UNUS: unus, nullus, ullus, solus

-NAUTA: neuter, alius, uter, totus, alter

\*body parts: esp. used with the oral Latin ‘command’ questions or counting questions

-corpus (corporis n), caput (capitis n), collum, umerus, pectus (pectoris n), cor (cordis n), bracchium, cubitus/cubitum, manus, digitus, pollex (pollicis m), pugnus, crus (cruris n), talus, pes (pedis m), coma, capillus, oculus, nasus, os (oris n), mentum, gena/mala/bucca, dens (dentis m), labium, barba, auris (auris f)

-other words found with such oral Latin commands: sinister (-tra, -trum), dexter (-tra, -trum), socius, tuus/vester (-stra, -strum), meus/noster (-stra, -strum), omnis, surge/sede, tange, pone, aperi/claude, anulus

\*#’s -numerals: I, V, X, L, C, D, M

-ordinals (ordo, ordinis m - rank, order): primus, secundus, etc

-cardinals (cardo, cardinis m - pivot, hinge): know the declension of unus, duo, tres

\*nouns with different meanings in the sing. and pl.

-impedimentum (hindrance) and impedimenta (baggage)

-castrum (fort) and castra (camp)

-sal (salt) and sales (wit, sophistication)

-aedes (shrine, temple) and aedes (building) - same form in nom. s. and pl.

-locus (place) and loci m (passages of literature) and loca n (places, regions)

-auxilium (help) and auxilia (auxiliary troops)

-carcer (prison) and carceres (barriers, starting gate)

-cera (wax) and cerae (wax tablets)

-comitium (place of assembly) and comitia (the assembly itself)

-copia (plenty) and copiae (troops)

-facultas (possibility) and facultatis (resources, goods)

-finis (border, end) and fines (territory)

-fortuna (fortune) and fortunae (possessions)

-littera (letter of the alphabet) and litterae (letter/epistle, literature)

-opera (work) and operae (workmen)

-pars (portion) and partes (role/character, function)

-rostrum (beak of a ship or bird) and rostra (platform for speakers in the forum)

\*Roman dating

-55 BC: (1) 754 - 55 = 699 AUC (ab urbe condita)

(2) consulibus Pompeio (et) Crasso

-ante diem .... Kalendas / Nonas / Idus + month

-Jan 29 = ante diem quartum Kalendas Februarias

-Feb 1 = Kalendis Februariis

\*idioms and expressions

-nocte media / multa	-gerere negotium / togam / bellum
-certiorem facere / certior fieri	-ferre signum / pedem
-castra ponere / movere	-iter facere / dare
-viam munire	-orationem habere
-gratias agere / gratiam habere	-prima luce / solis (oc)casu
-vallis / vallum	-collis / collum
-lucet / pluit / tonat / ningit / tempestas	
-dare velum / verba / manus / fabulam / poenam	

\*vocabulary / easily confused words

-candidus (shiny) / albus (dull)	-niger (shiny) / ater (dull)
-sol / luna / stella	-deus (n) / dives (adj)
-folium / herba / radix / arbor / arena	-civis / civitas
-pilum / hasta	-pilum / sagitta / arcus
-pilum / pilus / pila	-latus (adj) / latus (n)
-et (conj) / et (adv, 'too, even, also')	-atque = ac
-amabo / sodes (= si audies) + imperative	-panis / lac / mel
-pecus, pecoris n - cattle (collectively)	-latrones / vigiles (or agentes)
-pecus, pecudis f - one of a herd of cattle	-equus / eques / equitatus
-umbra > umbrage; utor > usury	-quondam / olim / aliquando
-disco / doceo	-moneo / maneo
-uxor / mulier / maritus (-a)	-pauci / multi / plurimi
-lumen / limen / numen	-fulmen / flumen
-hic (short i vs. long i)	-aurum (aureus) / aura / auris
-mos / mora / mors	-tibicen / tubicen
-sutor / sator / vestiarius	-mille / milia / miles
-libri / liberi	-viri / vires
-dolus / dolor	-paro / pareo / parco / pario
-aeger / salvus ; morbus / salus	-pono / possum
-munio / punio / unio	-ara / ala
-alam (both as noun and verb form)	
-sol / solus / solum / solea (vs. calceus / caliga)	

\*animals: this vocabulary is esp. used with oral commands introduced by 'fac sonum velut \_\_\_\_\_'

-canis, felis/feles, asinus, equus, taurus / vacca, sus, anser, columba, bubo, aquila, vultur, porcus, ovis, avis, apis, mus, musca, leo

\*elements on the periodic table:

-Au > aurum

-Fe > ferrum

-Ag > argentum

-Pb > plumbum

\*hodie is a contraction of hoc die

\*participles

-present act: declined like a 3rd decl. noun

-perf pass, fut act, fut pass (= gerundive): like a 1st/2nd adj

-no pres pass or perf pass participle

-sum: has only the fut act participle, futurus

\*A gerund is a verbal noun; a gerundive (since it is a participle) is a verbal adjective

\*general info on verbs:

-mood: indicative, imperative, subjunctive, infinitive

-voice: active, passive

-tense: pres, imp, fut, perf, plup, fut perf

-number: sing. and pl.

-person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

\*compounds of sum: -praesum, praesesse, praefui (+ dat.)

-absum, abesse, afui

-adsum (assum), adesse, affui

\*deponents: look passive, but translated in the active

-1st: hortor, conor, rusticor, arbitror

-2nd: vereor, fateor

-3rd: loquor, sequor, proficiscor, nascor; utor, fungor, fruor, vescor (last 4 take the abl.)

-3rd-io: patior, gradior, morior

-4th: orior, potior (+ abl), molior

\*semi-deponents: only deponent in the perfect system; ex's are gaudeo (gaudere, gavisus sum - rejoice + abl. of cause), audeo (audere, ausus sum - dare + inf.), fido (fidere, fissus sum -trust in, confide in + dat.), soleo (solere, solitus sum - be accustomed + inf.)

\*defective verbs: those which are missing certain forms, esp. the present system; ex's are odi (odisse, osurus - hate) and memini (meminisse - remember + acc./gen.)

\*imperative: used for direct command; noli/nolite + the infinitive is used to introduce the negative [nolite sedere! surgite et clamate!]; occurs in both the present and future tenses; future imperatives refer to some future time in general and thus are regularly used in laws, treaties, and maxims)

-exceptions to the rule in present active singular imperative: “‘duc, dic, fac, and fer’ should have an -e but the -e isn't there” (also, sum has ‘es’ as its pres. act. sing. imperative)

-all inf's:	(act, s)	(act,pl)	(pass, s)	(pass, pl)
pres, 2nd person	ama	amate	amare	amamini
fut, 2nd person	amato	amatote	amator	-----
fut, 3rd person	amato	amanto	amator	amantor

\*infinitives: know the forms and uses

1. complementary - after verbs such as possum, cupio, volo, debeo, audeo
2. subjective - inf as the subject of a sentence; considered a sing. neuter noun; a verbal noun, thus functions as the subject but can still take a direct object [necare patrem est malum]
3. objective - used after verbs such as iubeo, cogo, prohibeo which (in the active) take an acc. + an inf. [Caesar iussit milites oppugnare]
4. indirect statement - introduced by verbs of mental action, always contains a subject accusative + an inf. [Graeci putaverunt Romanos barbaros esse]

\*reduplication in the perfect active stem: some verbs take the first letter of the present stem + the stem vowel + the present stem to form the perfect active stem

-mordeo > momordi	-spondeo > spo- spondi)
-parco > peperci	-pario > peperi
-cano > cecini	-caedo > cecidi (first i is long)
-tendo > tetendi	-cado > cecidi (first i is short)
-disco > didici	-sto > steti (ste-sti)
-fallo > fefelli	

\*irregular verbs: all the forms of eo, volo/nolo/malo, fero



\*-go: this is a common suffix in compounds with ago; ex's are cogo (con + ago)

\*provideo: foresee (+ acc); provide for (+ gen)

\*uses of the subjunctive: know formations and the sequence of the tenses

-hortatory/jussive

-purpose

-indirect command

\*quamquam: always takes the indicative and means although

\*passive periphrastic: indicates necessity or obligation; gerundive + form of sum (+ dat. agent)

-also, debeo (+ inf) / necesse est (+ dat + inf) / oportet (+ acc + inf) are used to express necessity or obligation

\*dum: while (+ indicative); until (+ subjunctive)

\*Latin names of Roman gods:

-Iuppiter, Iovis m

-Neptunus, -i m

-Pluto, Plutonis m

-Apollo, Apollonis m

-Mercurius, -i m

-Vulcanus, -i m

-Iuno, Iunonis f

-Minerva, -ae f

-Venus, Veneris f

-Diana, -ae f

-Proserpina, -ae f

-Ceres, Cereris f

\*the prefix sesqui- means one and one-half

\*impersonals:

-taedet, taedit / taesum est

-oportet

-decet