

**NATIONAL LATIN EXAM 1998**  
**TRANSLATIONS OF READING PASSAGES**

INTRO

FABULA DE DUOBUS EQUIS

A farmer had two horses. The names of the horses were Prince and King. The two horses used to work in the field and used to help the farmer. Once the farmer did not close the gate. And so Prince used to run from the field toward the riverbank. There was ice on the river. Prince walked on the ice. Suddenly there was a crack in the ice and Prince fell into the cold water. The horse was terrified. The farmer saw Prince in the water, and he shouted in a loud voice, 'Come, come out of the water Prince!' But the horse was not able to come out of the water. 'What shall I do?' the farmer asked. 'My Prince will die!' Then the farmer thought of a plan. He immediately led the other horse King to the riverbank. When Prince saw [his] good friend King, he was happy. And so he was able to come out of the water. In this way the horse was saved.

LATIN I

ANTAEUS AND HIS MOTHER

Gaea was 'Mother Earth,' the mother of all things on earth. This goddess was great, powerful, and beautiful. She nourished all the birds, fishes, and all animals that lived on earth. Among her many children were the mountains, the stars, the ocean, and the trees. One of the sons of Gaea was a giant, named Antaeus, who was born in Libya. When Antaeus was a baby and then a boy, he lived in a large cave in Africa. Antaeus was strong, but also cruel. The boy used to kill lions and then devour the dead lions. Antaeus used to like to fight with all the travelers who came through Libya. This cruel man killed many miserable travelers.

When he was fighting, Mother Earth always used to give Antaeus help. Once Antaeus fought with Hercules, and with the help of his mother Gaea he almost conquered Hercules. After the two men were fighting for a long time, Hercules finally understood the tricks of Antaeus and his mother, and he killed the giant.

LATIN II

A TALE OF THE NOBLE CLAUDIAN FAMILY

Among the Romans, the Claudian family was considered very noble but very proud and very fierce. One of this family, P. Claudius Pulcher, having been made consul in the first Punic War, sailed with many ships from Italy to Sicily. This commander, before he began battle against the Carthaginian ships, was seeking the auspices according to the custom of his ancestors. But the man who was taking care of the sacred chickens announced a bad omen to Claudius: 'The chickens,' he said, 'were neither going out of their cage nor are they eating.' And so Claudius ordered the chickens to be thrown into the sea, saying, "Perhaps they will drink, because they do not wish to eat!" Then the naval battle was begun. Because of that haughtiness of Claudius, however, the Romans were defeated by the Carthaginians and eight thousand of their men were killed, twenty thousand [were] captured.

PROSE

A DISTURBANCE AT THE AMPHITHEATER

Among the Nucernian and Pompeian colonists an appalling slaughter arose from a mild beginning at a gladiatorial show. Indeed the colonists in turn first took up insults, then rocks, finally the sword. The common people of the Pompeians, in whose town the show was being put on, were greater (in number). Therefore many of the Nucernians were carried out of the town, their bodies maimed through injuries. Finally the judgment of this matter was referred to the senate; the Pompeians were prohibited from public assembly of this type for ten years. The fan clubs, which had been established contrary to the laws, were disbanded. A certain man of the Pompeians, who had put on the show and had started the riot, was punished with exile.

POETRY

A LEGENDARY MAIDEN

. . . a warrior-maiden, that one [who had] not accustomed her womanly hands to the distaff or basket of Minerva, but a maiden [accustomed] to endure harsh battles and to outstrip the winds with the running of her feet. Whether she were flying over the topmost blades of untouched corn and had not bruised the tender ears of corn in her course, or she were journeying through the middle of the sea suspended above the swelling wave and did not dip the swift soles of her feet in the sea. All the young people poured forth from houses and fields, and the throng of mothers wonder at and watch her as she goes, gaping with minds astonished [at] how the glory of royal purple covers her smooth shoulders, how the hairpin entwines her hair with gold, how she herself carries a Lycian quiver. . .

LATIN V

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO GENERALS

To Africanus asking who he believed had been the greatest general, Hannibal answered Alexander, the king of the Macedonians, because with a small force he had vanquished innumerable armies and because he had traveled through the most distant regions, which it was beyond human hope to view. To him then asking whom he placed second, Hannibal named Pyrrhus, saying that he had first taught [the science of] measuring out (surveying) a camp; that, moreover, no one had chosen sites [or] had placed his garrisons more carefully; that in addition the same man had possessed that art of winning men over to himself in such a way that the Italian tribes preferred the rule of a foreign king rather than of the Roman people, so long the master in that land. To him investigating whom he considered third, Hannibal without hesitation named himself. Then, laughing, Scipio threw out, "What in the world would you say if you had defeated me?" "Then, in truth," Hannibal replied, "I would place myself both before Alexander and before Pyrrhus and before all other generals." This unexpected response moved Scipio deeply.

THE REIGN OF SATURN

How well were they living when Saturn was the king, before the earth was opened up into long roads! Not yet had the pine tree scorned the blue waves and offered its spread-out curve (of a sail) to the winds; nor had the wandering sailor, seeking profits in unknown lands, loaded his boat with foreign merchandise. At that time the strong bull did not undergo yokes, nor did the horse champ at the bit with its tamed mouth. Not any house had doors; a stone was not fixed in the fields which might mark the cultivated fields with certain boundaries. The very oaks were giving honey; and sheep voluntarily were bringing udders [full] of milk to meet carefree [shepherds]. There were no battle lines, no wrath, no wars; nor had the cruel craftsman fashioned the sword with pitiless skill. Now under lord Jupiter there are slaughters and wounds always; now the sea [slays]. now [there are] suddenly a thousand ways of death.