



Sixth Form Entrance Examination: Latin

Summary

The Latin paper is 45 minutes. No dictionaries are allowed.

Sample questions:

Give a good English translation of the Latin passage. Some words have been provided in the glossary. Be sure to read the text carefully. If you do not know a word, make an intelligent guess. Try not to leave gaps. Marks may still be awarded even where mistakes in vocabulary have been made.

Tiberius Gracchus

Tiberius Gracchus, who served with a Roman army in an unsuccessfully campaign in Spain, pays with his life for trying to introduce revolutionary legislation to help the lower classes of Italy.

Tiberius Gracchus, notissimi viri filius, quaestor fuerat in exercitu Romano, qui contra Numantiam pugnaverat. Gracchus diu huius belli finem petiverat. ille itaque foedus fecerat, quod senatus Romanus accipere noluit. veritus ne senatores se punire vellent, tribunatum petivit. non modo civitatem toti Italiae promisit, sed etiam agros inter omnes cives dividere voluit. haec, quae omnes praetor nobiles cupiebant, in magnum periculum duxerunt rem publicam.

Gracchus ipse cum fratre agros Italiae inter pauperes dividere coepit. tum P. Scipio Nasica, primus inter nobiles, in summo Capitolio stans hortatus est omnes, qui securitatem vellent, ut se sequerentur. plurimi nobiles, senatores et equites, a Scipione sic incitati, in Gracchum inruerunt, qui magnam turbam ex omni fere parte Italiae convocatam adloquebatur. is fugiens necatus est. hoc initium in urbe Roma civilis belli fuit.

questor, - oris	= a junior official
Numantia, ae	= Numantia (a city in Spain)
exercitus, - us	= army
finis, -is	= end
foedus, -eris	= treaty, agreement, covenant
tribunatus, -us	= tribune of the people (a Roman official who supported the interests of the common people)
pauper, -is	= poor
P. Scipio Nasica	= Publius Scipio Nasica
Capitolium, -i	= Capitol (a hill in Rome)
securitas, -atis	= security, safety, freedom from fear
adloquor	= I address
fere	= almost, nearly
civilis, is	= civil