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# Latin 1B Language and Culture Placement Test (3968)

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## Stage 12 Attainment test

### Part 1: Story

#### Sulla titulum scribit - Sulla writes a notice

Your teacher will read the following story aloud to you. Read it again and then answer the questions. Answer in English unless you are asked for Latin words.

Names:

**Holcōnius** *Holconius*

**Sulla** *Sulla*

**Āfer: Āfrum** *Afer*

Holcōnius in urbe ambulābat. subitō parvam tabernam cōspexit ubi Sulla habitābat. Sulla erat scrīptor. Holcōnius cōnsilium cēpit. tabernam intrāvit et scrīptōrem vīdit.

“Sulla,” inquit, “scrībe hunc titulum in mūrō tuō! scrībe ‘Holcōnius est candidātus optimus!’” tum Holcōnius scrīptōrī pecūniam dedit. 5

“placetne tibi?” inquit Holcōnius.

“mihi placet,” respondit Sulla.

tum Holcōnius ē tabernā festīnāvit et per viam contendit. mox Sulla titulum in mūrō scribēbat. subitō clāmōrēs irātōs audīvit. sollicitus circumspectāvit et trēs pistōrēs cōspexit. 10

“quid tū facis? cūr hunc titulum scrīpsistī?” clāmāvērunt pistōrēs. “nōs Āfrō favēmus. nōs hodiē in forō convēnimus, et Āfer nōbīs fūstēs dedit...”

“sed ego hunc titulum scrīpsī,” respondit Sulla, “quod 15 Holcōnius mihi pecūniam dedit. sī vōs et Āfer mihi pecūniam ...”

subitō terra tremuit, et pars mūrī in pistōrēs incidit. in mūrō erat verbum ‘Holcōnius.’

“Holcōnius mē servāvit!” exclāmāvit Sulla. “Holcōnius igitur 20 est candidātus optimus!”

**scrīptor** *signwriter*  
**cōnsilium cēpit** *had an idea*  
**scrībe!** *write!*  
**titulum** *notice, slogan*

**clāmōrēs** *shouts*  
**pistōrēs** *bakers*  
**quid** *what?*

**fūstēs** *club, stick*

**sī** *if*  
**tremuit** *trembled*  
**pars mūrī** *part of the wall*

**in pistōrēs** *onto the bakers*  
**incidit** *fell*  
**verbum** *word*

## Stage 12 Part 1: Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions. Answer in English unless you are asked for Latin words.

1. What are we told about the shop? (*Check the correct answer.*)
  - (a) Sulla owned it.
  - (b) Sulla lived in it.
  - (c) It was large.
  - (d) It was busy.(1)
  
2. Look at lines 1-3. How did Holconius know that Sulla was in his shop?  
(*Check the correct answer.*)
  - (a) Holconius heard Sulla.
  - (b) Sulla had invited Holconius.
  - (c) Holconius saw Sulla.(1)
  
3. State clearly where Holconius wanted Sulla to write the sign.  
..... (1)
  
4. Write down the **two** Latin words which show that Sulla agreed to Holconius' request.  
1st Latin word: .....  
2nd Latin word: ..... (1)
  
5. Why did Sulla agree to write the sign? (*Check the correct answer.*)
  - (a) Holconius paid him.
  - (b) He supported Holconius.
  - (c) Holconius was an important man.
  - (d) Holconius threatened him.(1)
  
6. Sulla began work on the sign quickly. Write down the Latin word which shows this.  
..... (1)

Continue

7. **sollicitus** (line 11). What did Sulla hear to make him feel like this?  
..... (1)

8. How many bakers were there? (*Check the correct answer.*)  
(a) one   
(b) two   
(c) three   
(d) four  (1)

9. According to the bakers, when had they been in the forum? (*Check the correct answer.*)  
(a) yesterday   
(b) this morning   
(c) today  (1)

10. Look at lines 12-14. Which word accurately describes how Sulla would be feeling at this point in the story? (*Check the correct answer.*)  
(a) relieved   
(b) amused   
(c) frightened   
(d) angry  (1)

11. Give **one** reason why he would be feeling like this.  
.....  
..... (1)

Continue

12. Look at lines 15-16. At this point, which candidate did Sulla support?

*(Check the correct answer.)*

- (a) Holconius
- (b) Afer
- (c) neither

(1)

13. Explain in detail your answer to question 12.

.....  
.....  
.....

(2)

14. Part of the wall fell down. What caused this to happen? *(Check the correct answer.)*

- (a) The bakers jumped onto it.
- (b) The bakers hit it with their clubs.
- (c) There was an earthquake.

(1)

15. What was Sulla's explanation for the collapse of the wall?

.....

(1)

16. What evidence did Sulla have for his interpretation?

.....  
.....

(1)

17. **Holcōnius igitur est candidātus optimus.**

What does Sulla think about Holconius at the end of the story?

.....  
.....

(1)

Continue

18. Choose the word or phrase below which you think best describes Sulla in this story.

*(Check the correct answer.)*

- (a) clever
- (b) not interested in politics
- (c) superstitious

Now explain your choice. Give **two** reasons.

Sulla is ..... because:

Reason (1) .....

.....

Reason (2) .....

.....

(2)

Total: (20)

Continue

## Part 2: Vocabulary

Write down the meaning of the following Latin words. In each case the word occurs in an example sentence:

1. mōns: .....  
*e.g.* amīcī montem spectābant. (1)
  
2. complet: .....  
*e.g.* magna turba viās complēbant. (1)
  
3. igitur: .....  
*e.g.* dominus igitur ad villam contendit. (1)
  
4. custōdit: .....  
*e.g.* Cerberus dominum custōdiēbat. (1)
  
5. mittit: .....  
*e.g.* Quīntus Clēmentem ad Caecilium mīsīt. (1)

Total: (5)

Continue

## Part 3: Language

Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verb from the parentheses.

1. ego in hortō ..... subitō terra tremuit. ( ambulābam / ambulābat )  
**tremuit** *trembled, shook* (1)
  
2. vōs fortissimī ..... . ( erās / erātis ) (1)
  
3. “cūr tū ad hanc vīllam ..... ?”  
rogāvit Caecilius. ( vēnistis / vēnistī )  
**hanc** *this* (1)
  
4. ego in portū eram. ego sonōs ..... . ( audīvī / audīvimus )  
**sonōs** *sounds, noises* (1)
  
5. nōs urbem petīvimus quod valdē ..... . ( timēbam / timēbāmus ) (1)

Total: (5)

Continue

## Part 4: Cultural background

### The destruction and excavation of Pompeii

1. When did Vesuvius erupt? (*Check the correct answer.*)

- (a) 79 BC
- (b) AD 79
- (c) AD 179

(1)

2. Herculaneum was buried in: (*Check the correct answer.*)

- (a) ash
- (b) stones
- (c) mud

(1)

3. The paragraph below describes how archaeologists make casts of the bodies they find buried in Pompeii. Choose words from the box to fill in the gaps.

In the nineteenth century, from time to time ..... found a hollow space in the solidified ..... where an object made of ..... or other organic material perished. To find out what it was they poured liquid ..... into the hole and when it hardened they carefully removed the surrounding ash and were left with a perfect copy of the original object. This work continues, but now archaeologists use ..... to make the casts.

ash	plaster	historians	resin	plastic
stone	archaeologists	wood	metal	mud

(5)

4. Why is resin a better material for making casts than plaster?

Give **two** reasons.

- 1) .....
- 2) .....

(2)

Continue

5. Imagine you are an archaeologist working at Pompeii or Herculaneum today. Choose one object you find. Mention where in the town you find the object and say why it is important for people studying the Romans.

My object is .....

I found it .....

.....

It is important because.....

.....

.....

.....

(3)

6. Imagine you are a boy or girl living in Pompeii. Write about what happened on the morning that Vesuvius began to erupt.

- Where were you and what were you doing?
- What signs of the eruption did you see and hear?
- How did you feel?

Write in complete sentences.

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Continue

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(8)

Total: (20)

**Totals**

Part 1: Comprehension	/20
Part 2: Vocabulary	/5
Part 3: Language	/5
Part 4: Cultural background	/20
Total	/50