



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

CLASSICS ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT  
THREE-YEAR COURSE

DECEMBER 2016

## Classics At-Interview Assessment

*For students with A Level (or equivalent) Latin*

Write your name at the top of your answer sheet. It is important to write good English. You have one hour.

**Translate the following passage into English.**

*Cicero explains how he had been constantly watching the development of events after the assassination of Julius Caesar with the intention bring about a full reconciliation among his fellow citizens.*

antequam de republica, patres conscripti, dicam ea, quae dicenda hoc tempore arbitror, exponam vobis breviter consilium et profectionis et reversionis meae. ego cum sperarem aliquando ad vestrum consilium auctoritatemque rem publicam esse revocatam, manendum mihi statuebam, quasi in vigilia quadam consulari ac senatoria. nec vero usquam discedebam nec a republica deiciebam oculos ex eo die, quo in aedem Telluris convocati sumus. in quo templo, quantum in me fuit, ieci fundamenta pacis Atheniensiumque renovavi vetus exemplum; Graecum etiam verbum usurpavi, quo tum in sedandis discordiis usa erat civitas illa, atque omnem memoriam discordiarum oblivione sempiterna delendam censui.

Cicero *Philippics* I.1

patres conscripti, *members of the Senate*  
arbitror –ari, arbitratus sum, *to think*  
expono, -ere, exposui, expositum, *to explain*  
reversio, -onis, *turning back*  
aliquando, *at some point*  
auctoritas, -atis, *authority*  
statuo, -ere, statui, statutum, *to resolve*  
vigilia, -ae, *vigil*  
consularis, -is -re, *befitting an ex-consul*  
deicio, -ere, deieci, deiectum, *to turn off from*  
aedes, -is, *temple*  
Tellus, -uris, *Tellus*  
convocati sumus: Cicero refers here to the first meeting of the Senate after the assassination of Julius Caesar  
Graecum verbum: Cicero here refers to the Greek term ‘amnestia’ (amnesty)

usurpo, -are, -avi, -atum, *adopt*  
sedo, -are, -avi, -atum *settle*  
discordia, -ae, *conflict*  
oblivio, -onis, *oblivion*  
sempiternus, -a, um, *eternal*  
censeo, -ere, -ui, -um, *propose*

## Classics At-Interview Assessment

*For students with A Level (or equivalent) Latin*

Write your name at the top of your answer sheet. It is important to write good English. You have one hour.

**Translate the following passage into English.**

*Even though distressed at the fate of the Republic, and not attached to his own life, Cicero advocated peace on any terms to prevent the death of many fellow citizens.*

fateor enim me, cum ea, quae acciderunt, providerem futura, tanta in maestitia fuisse, quanta ceteri optimi cives, si idem providissent, fuissent. dolebam, dolebam, patres conscripti, rem publicam, vestris quondam meisque consiliis conservatam, brevi tempore esse perituram. nec vero eram tam indoctus ignarusque rerum, ut frangerer animo propter vitae cupiditatem, quae me manens conficeret angoribus, dimissa molestiis omnibus liberaret. illos ego praestantissimos viros, lumina rei publicae, vivere volebam, tot consularis, tot praetorios, tot honestissimos senatores, omnem praeterea florem nobilitatis ac iuventutis, tum optimorum civium exercitus; qui si viverent, quamvis iniqua condicione pacis (mihi enim omnis pax cum civibus bello civili utilior videbatur) rem publicam hodie teneremus.

Cicero *Philippics* II.37

fateor, -eri, fassus sum, *to admit*  
provideo, -ere, providi, provisum, *to foresee*  
maestitia, -ae, *sadness*  
patres conscripti, *members of the Senate*  
cupiditas, -atis, *passion*  
angor, -is, *anguish*  
molestia, -ae, *trouble*  
praestans, -antis, *distinguished*  
consularis, -is, re, *consular*  
praetorius, -a, um, *praetorian*  
iuventus, -utis, *youth*  
quamvis, *although*  
condicio, -onis, *agreement*  
utilis -is, -e, *advantageous*

## Classics At-Interview Assessment

*For students with A Level (or equivalent) Ancient Greek*

Write your name at the top of your answer sheet. It is important to write good English. You have one hour.

**Translate the following passage into English.**

*Xenophon exhorts his fellow commanders to avoid capture at all cost and in so doing be an example to the common soldiers.*

Ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν δὴ πάντες ἐπιστάμεθα, ὅτι βασιλεὺς καὶ Τισσαφέρνης οὓς μὲν ἐδυνήθησαν συνειλήφασιν ἡμῶν, τοῖς δ' ἄλλοις δῆλον ὅτι ἐπιβουλεύουσιν, ὡς, ἢν δύνωνται, ἀπολέσωσιν. ἡμῖν δέ γε οἶμαι πάντα ποιητέα ὡς μήποτε ἐπὶ τοῖς βαρβάροις γενώμεθα, ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον ἐκεῖνοι ἐφ' ἡμῖν. εὖ τοίνυν ἐπίστασθε ὅτι ὑμεῖς τοσοῦτοι ὄντες ὅσοι νῦν συνεληλύθατε μέγιστον ἔχετε καιρόν. οἱ γὰρ στρατιῶται οὗτοι πάντες πρὸς ὑμᾶς βλέπουσι, κἂν μὲν ὑμᾶς ὀρώσιν ἀθύμους, πάντες κακοὶ ἔσονται, ἢν δὲ ὑμεῖς αὐτοῖ τε παρασκευαζόμενοι φανεροὶ ἦτε ἐπὶ τοὺς πολεμίους καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους παρακαλῆτε, εὖ ἴστε ὅτι ἔψονται ὑμῖν καὶ πειράσονται μιμεῖσθαι. ἴσως δέ τοι καὶ δίκαιόν ἐστιν ὑμᾶς διαφέρειν τι τούτων.

XENOPHON, *Anabasis* 3.1.35-37

Τισσαφέρνης: nominative, masculine, singular, *Tissaphernes*

συνειλήφασιν: from συλλαμβάνω, *to seize*

ἐπιβουλεύουσιν: from ἐπιβουλεύω, *to plot against*

ἐπὶ τοῖς βαρβάροις: ἐπί with dative, *in the hands of*

παρακαλῆτε: from παρακαλέω, *to encourage*

μιμεῖσθαι: from μιμέομαι, *to imitate*

διαφέρειν: from διαφέρω, *to be different from* (with genitive), in the sense of *to excel*