BEGINNING LATIN READING COMPREHENSION

The Beginning Latin Reading Comprehension Exam is intended for Latin I or slower-paced Latin II classes, targeted for **novice-high/intermediate-low** learners according to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines in reading comprehension. This exam features questions testing the student's understanding and comprehension of one or two original passages. Questions about culture, history, and mythology are asked in the context of the passage.

LANGUAGE

Nouns (1st, 2nd, and 3rd declensions)
- nominative
  - subject
  - predicate nominative
- genitive
  - genitive phrases translated "of"
  - possession
- dative
  - dative phrases translated "to" or "for"
  - indirect object
  - with certain special verbs, e.g., credo, persuadeo
- accusative
  - direct object
  - object of the prepositions *ad, ante, circum, contra, in, inter, per, post, prope, trans*
  - duration of time
  - ?extent of space?
- ablative
  - ablative phrases translated "by," "with," "from," etc.
  - object of the prepositions *ab, cum, de, ex, in, pro, sine, sub*
  - means/instrument
  - manner
  - time when
- vocative
  - direct address
- locative
  - locative phrases translated "in" or "at"
  - place where, e.g., *Romae, domi*

Pronouns
- personal *ego, tu, is, ea*
- relative *qui, quae, quod*
- interrogative *quis* (nominative and accusative only), *quid* (nominative and accusative only)

Adjectives (positive forms of the first and second declensions and third declension)
- noun/adjective agreement
- interrogative *quot*
- numbers
  - cardinal numbers: *unus-decem, centum*
  - Roman numerals: I-C
- *quam* with positive adjectives and adverbs

Adverbs
- e.g., *cras, heri, ibi, mox, numquam, saepe, statim, subito, tum, ubi*
- positive forms from first and second declension adjectives
- interrogative *cur, ubi, quomodo*

Conjunctions
- *aut, et, neque, quod, sed, ubi, et...et, neque...neque*

Enclitics
- *-ne, -que*

Interjections
- *ecce!, eheu!, euge!/eugepae!*

Idioms:
- e.g., *gratias agere, brevi tempore, prima luce*

Thematic Vocabulary
- parts of the body, *e.g., caput, oculus, manus, pes*

Verbs (first, second, third, third-io, and fourth conjugations)
- four tenses of the indicative mood, active voice: present, imperfect, future (first and second conjugation only), perfect
- present active imperative singular and plural; negative imperative with *noli, nolite*
- irregular verbs *sum* and *possum:* present, imperfect, future, perfect
- impersonal verbs *necesse est, licet, decet*
- present active participles
- present active infinitive
- indirect statement with present tense main verbs

Oral Latin
- greetings and pleasantries, e.g., *Quid est nomen tibi?, Salve!, Salvete!, Gratias tibi ago*
- weather, e.g., *Sol lucet*
- classroom items, e.g., *adsum; Licetne mihi ire ad latrinam?*

Derivatives
- English words based on Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes, e.g., sedentary, sorority, puerile, quadruped

Expressions, Mottoes, and Abbreviations
- e.g., *veni, vidi, vici; summa cum laude; per annum; i.e. A.D.; e.g.; etc.; S.P.Q.R*

CULTURE

These are examples of what potentially could be asked in the context of the passages. This is not a prescriptive list.

Geography
- important Italian locations, e.g., Ostia, Pompeii, Mt. Vesuvius, Brundisium, Apennine Mts.
- provinces and major cities, e.g., Africa, Athens, Gaul, Carthage, Asia Minor, Troy

History
- basic historical divisions (Monarchy, Republic, Empire) and associated terms (king, consul, emperor)
- kings of Rome and early Roman heroes, e.g., Romulus, Tarquinius Superbus, Horatius, Cincinnatus

Mythology
- Olympian deities and associated myths, e.g., Echo and Narcissus, Arachne and Minerva, Midas
- Aeneas and the Trojan War

Roman Life
- city of Rome, e.g., Forum, Palatine Hill, Via Appia, Pantheon, Campus Martius
- architectural structures and their functions, e.g., *aquaeductus, thermae, circus, amphitheatrum, curia, basilica*
- housing, e.g., *triclinium, insulae*
- meals, e.g., *cena, culina*
- clothing, e.g., *toga, tunica, stola*

36 QUESTIONS: APPROXIMATELY 33 READING COMPREHENSION AND 3 CULTURE