

GUIDELINES FOR THE UWO CLASSICS GREEK AND LATIN COMPREHENSIVES

This document is intended to describe possible guidelines for setting and marking the Greek and Latin Comprehensive Examinations of the PhD program in Classics at Western Ontario. These are informal guidelines only and need not be followed strictly in every case.

Department of Classical Studies
Comprehensive Examination
Latin

1. Identify and comment on FIVE of the following passages (you will see 8 on the actual exam), with at least two from each section. Commentaries may include (for example): identification of the author and work; identification of any significant formal characteristics (e.g., metre, dialect, etc.); situating the passage in the context of the development of its genre and/or literary tradition; relevance to Roman history, literature, or culture. (10/10)

Department of Classical Studies
Comprehensive Examination (Doctoral)
Greek

1. Identify and comment on FIVE

Ideal¹ PhD Comprehensive Commentary Response
[Passage selected by and commented upon by Debra Nousek]

Facturusne operae pretium sim si a primordio urbis res populi Romani perscripserim nec satis scio nec, si sciam, dicere ausim, quippe qui cum veterem tum volgatam esse rem videam, dum novi semper scriptores aut in rebus certius aliquid allaturos se aut scribendi arte rudem vetustatem superaturos credunt. Ut cumque erit, iuvabit tamen rerum gestarum memoriae principis terrarum populi pro virili parte et ipsum consuluisse; et si in tanta scriptorum turba mea fama in obscuro siltat, tunc magnitudine eorum me qui nomini officient meo consoler. Res est praeterea et immensi operis, ut quae supra septingentesimum annum repetatur et quae ab exiguis profecta initiis eo creverit ut iam magnitudine laboret sua; et legentium plerisque non dubito quin primae origines proximaque originibus minus praebitura voluptatis sint, festinantibus ad haec nova quibus iam pridem praevalentis populi vires se ipsae conficiunt: ego contra hoc quoque laboris praemium petam, ut me a conspectu malorum nostrae per annos vidit aetas, tantisper certe dum prisca [tota] illa mente repeto, auertam, omnis expertis curae quae scribentis animum, etsi non flectere a uero, sollicitum tamen efficere posset.

This passage is the opening of the
(AUC). Written in the last few decades of the first century BCE and continued into the new

and more recently in the first half of the first century BCE (authors such as Valerius Antias and Q. Claudius Quadrigarius). His patriotic ~~stae~~ regarding the ~~is~~ is at the forefront of the second theme, though he alludes to the challenge of writing contemporary history on account of the conflict and political dissolution that plagued the last decades of the Republic. Although it is only ~~ediat~~ here, he will later in the ~~is~~ famously announce the moral purpose of his ~~is~~, namely that it ~~and~~ history more broadly ~~is~~ intended to serve as a guide to what behavior ought to be adopted, and what avoided. The importance of correct ~~beh~~avior, as learned through reading the deeds of famous and heroic men (that is, through

(tragedian) is accused of using elements (like obscenity and sexual transgressions like incest) in his plays which really should be beneath him as a tragedian. He is portrayed here as the source of all evil and the reason why Athens is in decline and there is no other playwright to the and write something good. This play is also an example of skill at word play for which his plays are known (e.g. the glorious descriptor - above. Old comedy is also known for its satirical and political content (unlike Old Comedy) and its time (like poor Kleisthenes at the beginning of the play under or

without they are no longer able to call themselves Trojans and associate