

MEDIEVAL INSTITUTE LATIN EXAM, FALL 2025

The exam consists of **three passages**.

The **first** is a passage for unaided translation, i.e., it must be translated without a dictionary or any other kind of aid.

In your translation of the **second** and **third** passages, you may make use of **any instruments** you wish (dictionaries, grammar books, Latin Bible, etc.).

You will be allowed **three hours** for this exam.

Please write your translation on **lined paper**, skipping **every other line**, **numbering** the pages consecutively, and labeling each with your **exam number**; please leave **wide margins** and use only **one side** to facilitate photocopying.

You are not permitted to use a computer during the exam period.

To pass the exam:

- You must translate the **entire** passages (apart from possible minor omissions).
- The translation must show a good **overall understanding** of the text.
- The **syntactical structure** of the majority of single sentences must be correctly rendered.
- There should be very few grave errors in the translation of single **word-forms** (tense, number, case, etc.) per passage.

Please produce an intelligible and grammatically correct English translation. If necessary, add a more literal translation in brackets or notes to show your understanding of the Latin text.

Procedure: After each paper has been graded independently by the members of the MI Latin Exam Committee, the Committee will determine your final grade (**pass/fail**). You will be informed of the result by the Director of the Medieval Institute or by the relevant departmental DGS.

Please schedule an appointment with the Chair of the Committee (dgura@nd.edu) to discuss your exam paper.

PASSAGE NO 1: UNAIDED PASSAGE

Gregory sends Augustin and other monks to evangelize England and encourages them when they are scared.

Gregorius, uir doctrina et actione praecipuus, pontificatum Romanae et apostolicae sedis sortitus rexit annos XIII, menses VI, et dies X. Qui... misit seruum Dei Augustinum et alios plures cum eo monachos timentes Dominum praedicare uerbum Dei genti

- 5 Anglorum. Qui cum iussis pontificalibus obtemperantes memoratum opus adgredi coepissent, iamque aliquantulum itineris confecissent, perculsi timore inerti, redire domum potius quam barbaram, feram, incredulamque gentem, cuius ne linguam quidem nossent, adire cogitabant, et hoc esse tutius communi consilio decernebant. Nec mora, Augustinum, quem eis episcopum ordinandum, si ab Anglis susciperentur, disposuerat,
- 10 domum remittunt, qui a beato Gregorio humili supplicatu obtineret ne tam periculosam, tam laboriosam, tam incertam peregrinationem adire deberent. Quibus ille exhortatorias mittens litteras, in opus eos uerbi, diuino confisos auxilio, proficisci suadet. Quarum uidelicet litterarum ista est forma: Gregorius seruus seruorum Dei seruis Domini nostri. Quia melius fuerat bona non incipere, quam ab his, quae coepta sunt, cogitatione
- 15 retrorsum redire, summo studio, dilectissimi filii, oportet, ut opus bonum, quod auxiliante Domino coepistis, impleatis. Nec labor uos ergo itineris, nec maledicorum hominum linguae deterreant; sed omni instantia, omnique feruore, quae inchoastis, Deo auctore peragite; scientes, quod laborem magnum maior aeternae retributionis gloria sequitur. Remeanti autem Augustino praeposito uestro, quem et abbatem uobis constituimus, in
- 20 omnibus humiliter oboedite; scientes hoc uestris animabus per omnia profuturum, quicquid a uobis fuerit in eius admonitione conpletum. Omnipotens Deus sua uos gratia protegat, et uestri laboris fructum in aeterna me patria uidere concedat; quatinus etsi uobiscum laborare nequeo, simul in gaudio retributionis inueniar, quia laborare scilicet uolo. Deus uos incolumes custodiat, dilectissimi filii.

PASSAGE NO 2: Second AIDED PASSAGE

Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia regum Britanniae*. The coronation ceremony of King Arthur.

Omnibus denique in urbe congregatis, sollempnitate instante archipresules ad palacium ducuntur ut regem diademate regali coronent. Dubricius ergo, quoniam in sua diocesi curia tenebatur, paratus ad templum metropolitane sedis ordinate conducitur. A dextro enim et a leuo latere duo archipontifices ipsum tenebant; quatuor autem reges, Albanie uidelicet atque Cornubie, Demetie et Venedotie, quorum ius id fuerat, quatuor aureos gladios ferentes ante illum preibant; conuentus quoque multimodorum ordinatorum miris modulationibus precinebat. Ex alia autem parte reginam, suis insignibus laureatam, archipresules atque pontifices ad templum dicatarum puellarum conducebant; quatuor quoque predictorum regum regine quatuor albas columbas more preferebant; mulieres omnes que aderant illam cum maximo gaudio sequebantur. Postremo, peracta processione, tot organa, tot cantus in utrisque fiunt templis ita ut pre nimia dulcedine milites qui aderant nescirent quod templorum prius peterent. Cateruatim ergo nunc ad hoc, nunc ad illud ruebant, nec si totus dies celebrationi daretur tedium aliquod ipsis generaret. Diuinis tandem obsequiis in utroque celebratis, rex et regina diademata sua deponunt assumptisque leuioribus ornamentis ipse ad suum palatium cum uiris, ipsa ad aliud cum mulieribus epulatum incedunt; antiquam namque consuetudinem Troie seruantes Britones consueuerant mares cum maribus, mulieres cum mulieribus festiuos dies separatim celebrare.

Notes for Passage 2

Dubricius, -i, m.: archbishop of Llandaff.

metropolitane sedis: *the cathedral*.

Albania: *Scotland*.

Cornubia: *Cornwall*.

Demetia: *South Wales*.

Venedotia: *North Wales*.

PASSAGE NO 3: Second AIDED PASSAGE

Walter of Châtillon, *Autumnali frigore*. A poem about Walter's relationship with 'Niobe'.

1.

Autumnali frigore
marcescente lilio
foris algens corpore
flammas intus sentio.
Stultus ex industria
logicis obicio,
quod duo contraria
 suscipio.

2.

Iouis intemperies
mutat rerum speciem;
nulla meam species
alterat temperiem.
Totum cogat spiritum
Boreas in glaciem,
tamen hoc propositum
 non uariem.

3.

Viole, uaccinia
carent rore uitreo,
cadunt, marcent lilia;
sto semper et floreo

Dum sola sit stabilis
Niobe, quam teneo,
solus immutabilis
 permaneo.

4.

Dum contemplor oculos
instar duum syderum
et labelli flosculos
dignos ore superum,
transcendisse uideor
gazas regum ueterum,
dum semel commisceor
 et iterum.

5.

Amoris ex debito
me iugo subiciam,
licet quis, et merito,
reputet infamiam.
Moris est sic uiuere.
Licet ergo seruam,
uisus michi sapere
 desipiam.

Notes

The poem is rhythmical [Norberg 7 x 7pp + 4pp].

Stanza 3: uaccinium, -ii, n.: *blueberry*

Stanza 5: seruam] *seruire* in regard to clerics carries the sense of *to serve God*; think about the context(s).