

**2004 VJCL Convention Latin II Open Certamen
FINALS**

1. TOSS UP: Welcome to the final round of the certamen. You might say that to reach this point, you are one of the best at open certamen. What is the Latin adjective for “best”?
ANS: *optimus, -a, -um*
 - a. BONUS: The positive degree of *optimus* is the adjective *bonus, bona, bonum*. Can you say what the Latin comparative degree of *bonus* is? ANS: *melior, melior, melius* (also accept just “*melior*” or just “*melius*”)
2. TOSS UP: What King of the Titans did a young Zeus overthrow in an epic war with the help of the Hecatoncheires, the “Hundred-Handed Ones”? ANS: Cronus (Kronos)/Saturn(us)
 - a. BONUS: Later, what mortal hero’s help did Zeus need to defeat the Giants when they waged war upon the Olympian gods? ANS: Heracles / Hercules
3. TOSS UP: Roman history is also marked by several significant struggles. What Etruscan King of Rome was overthrown in 509 BC in a rebellion that ended the era of the Monarchy? ANS: Tarquinius Superbus (“Tarquin the Proud”) (IF answer is “Tarquin/Tarquinius” prompt for more information; NOT Tarquinius Priscus)
 - a. BONUS: What form of government was created to replace the monarchy? ANS: Res Publica (The Republic) (If answer is “democracy” prompt for more information)
4. TOSS UP: Once the republican form of government was established, the Romans elected their leaders. What Latin phrase, literally meaning “the course of honors,” refers to the series of political offices that Roman politicians would climb in a specific order as they advanced through their careers? ANS: *Cursus Honōrum*
 - a. BONUS: In the *cursus honōrum*, a certain office was considered optional. The holder of this office was in charge of sponsoring games, theatrical productions and public buildings. What was this office? ANS: aedile (aedilis)
5. TOSS UP: What second declension Latin noun meaning “a game” is also the word for “a school” or “a play”? ANS: *lūdus, lūdī* (only the nominative is needed)
 - a. BONUS: What word in English derives from *lūdus, lūdī* and means, among other definitions, “an entertainment between the acts of a play”? ANS: interlude
6. TOSS UP: When you are recognized, perform the action indicated in the following Latin command: *Tange tuum caput et exclāmā tuum nomen*. ANS: (Student is to touch his/her own head and yell his/her own name)
 - a. BONUS: Now perform the action indicated in this Latin command: *Surgite et bis salīte*. ANS: (At least two students must stand up and hop/jump twice)
7. TOSS UP: This convention takes place the week before Thanksgiving, a holiday with which we traditionally associate the image of a cornucopia. The ancient Greeks and Romans, however, would have associated a cornucopia with what goddess of the grain and earth? ANS: Demeter / Ceres
 - a. BONUS: While Demeter is considered an “earth goddess,” what older goddess is the personification of the earth itself and the mate of Ouranos, the sky? Gaia (Ge)

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8. TOSS UP: The Roman Empire at its peak covered most of the territory around the European world. In fact, because the Romans controlled all of the land surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, they had a special name for this body of water in Latin. Give the Latin nickname for the Mediterranean, which in English means “our sea”. ANS: *Mare Nostrum*
- a. BONUS: Eventually, the Roman Empire became too large to manage. Which of the five “good” emperors made it his policy to forgo some of the conquests of his predecessor Trajan and focus on consolidating existing territories? In Britannia, for example, this emperor built a famous defensive wall which still stands today. ANS: Hadrian (aka Public Aelius Hadrianus)
9. TOSS UP: Identify the Latin verb which is at the root of the following English derivatives: premonition, admonish, monitor. ANS: *moneō* (*monēre*, *monuī*, *monitus*)
- a. BONUS: Give all four principal parts of the Latin verb which is the root of the following English derivatives: dedication, donative, data, donor. ANS: *dō*, *dāre*, *dedī*, *dātus* (-a, -um)
10. TOSS UP: A Roman individual writing a letter in 59 BC might indicate the date with the phrase “in the consulship of Caesar.” Identify the case in which the word *consul* would be written in that expression. ANS: Ablative
- a. BONUS: Identify the case in which the proper noun *Caesar* would be written in the phrase “in the consulship of Caesar.” ANS: Ablative