

LL 2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Catullus' poems often address his friends or enemies to give them advice and to vent his emotions. These two poems show opposite sides of Catullus' feelings, for he warns Ravidus in the first, but appeases Gellius in the second. Catullus' confrontations with his acquaintances reveals his rivalry with Ravidus over his lover, Lesbia, and his desire to resolve his conflict with Gellius, through the tone and word choice of the poems.

Catullus begins the first poem by directly addressing Ravidus by name ("Ravide"), and establishes the ~~vengeful~~ tone by asking "what evil thought drove you headlong into my iambs, wretched Ravidus" (1-2)? His naming Ravidus a "wretch" (miselle) foreshadows Catullus' threat to write iambs, the traditional meter for humiliation. Catullus then accuses Ravidus of invoking a god badly (3), heightening the gravity of his anger, and he says that the God will stir up a mad brawl between him and Catullus (4). Catullus asks a series of questions designed to refute Ravidus and cause him to back down, saying, "So you

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wish that you might come into the mouth (stor
a commener? What do you want? Do you desire
to be known in whatever way it is pleasing" (S-6)?
Catullus reveals the reason for this poem, which
Surely Ravidus knew before. Catullus makes
known his purpose, jealous because Ravidus
probably slept with Lesbia "Eris, quandoquidem meos
amores cum longa voluisti amare poena." —
"You will be with a long punishment, since you wished to love my
love(s)."

Catullus desires to resolve some conflict
with Gellius, as shown by the tone of this second
poem, by translating poems of Callimachus.
Catullus says that he was often seeking with
a hunting mind that he might be able to send
translated poems of Callimachus, his chief
inspiration, to Gellius (1-2). The poet desires
to resolve the conflict between Gellius and him
through these poems. The lines which say that
Catullus' purpose is so that Gellius does not
try to send hostile spears right up into his
head (neve conarere... usque caput), reveal the
bitternesses between the two men and the

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fact that they are at odds. Catullus almost begs Gellius to cease his attacks when he modestly says, "I now see that this endeavor has been taken up in vain, nor that you valued our prayers (hunc video... precor). The poet closes by saying, "We will ~~avoid~~ those hostile weapons driven against us, but you will give the punishment having been fixed in us (7-8). Catullus ends by threatening Gellius, saying that he will be repaid for his disrespects.

Although the poems do not address the same subject, both warn and threaten their addressees. The war imagery in the second poem is especially effective and is indicative of the open hostility in both poems.

In these two poems, Catullus expresses anger at two of his acquaintances. Both poems demonstrate a hostile relationship with their respective subjects. Yet Catullus's words on Ravidus reveal transgressions beyond the poet's ability to forgive, while his poem to Gallius shows a relationship that worsened because of Gallius's refusal to make amends more than the deeds themselves.

The tone of his poem to Ravidus is one of disbelief. He cannot believe that anyone would be so insane as to "agit praecipitem in meos iambo" (drive headlong into my iambus, line 2). If Ravidus can be called insane for this out, then we can deduce that he was fairly familiar with the vituperative powers of Catullus's poems. This deduction is further enforced by "An ut pervenias in ora vulgi?" (¶) (Is it so you may come in the mouth of the crowd? line 5). Ravidus, as Catullus sees it, transgressed ~~on~~ Catullus to gain notoriety in his poetry. Then Ravidus had, in a way, a faith in Catullus to write good and popular poetry.

The rhetorical questions Catullus has asked through the work, questioning in disbelief the motives of Ravidus, are answered in the final couplet. "Eris, quoniamquidem meos... voluisti amare poema." (You will be, because you wanted to love my loves with

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a long punishment, lines 7-8). Catullus here confirms his belief that Ravidus has done the act of "loving his lover" to gain fame. We can infer that he knew Ravidus's lust for infamy, so the two were probably more than passing acquaintances. With the literary aspect of the punishment so stressed, Catullus is ~~speaking~~ writing to someone who knew his work and may have been in Catullus's literary circle.

Poem 116 is more regretful, and shows the poet remorseful that he could not reconcile Gellius. "Saepe tibi studioso, ... possem mittere Battidae" (Often seeking with my studious mind hunting how to translate the poems of Callimachus to you.) shows Catullus using his mime gift, that of poetry, ^{lines 1-2} to make an offering of peace to Gellius. "Saepe" indicates that he has done this on several occasions and therefore truly wants to restore the relationship. After he had tried to make peace several times and was rebused, Catullus was forced to give up: "hunc video mihi mune frustra sumptum esse laborem" (here I see that this work was now taken up by me in vain, line 5). "frustra" brings to mind echoes of Poem 64, where the maternal lament of Ariadne was uttered "in vain" to the winds. This parallel would probably be picked up by Gellius, and he would recognize like we now can that both this lament and Ariadne's came after a betrayal by someone considered close and friendly to the lamentor. Gellius

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was indeed a friend, and Catullus's words show that he is indeed sorry to end their friendship.

Both poems share the theme of an acquaintance's end. Poem 40 carries a bit more anger towards one who did not start out too highly in Catullus's esteem to begin with. Poem 116 is more personal and mourns that the poet and his once friend could not settle differences. Yet both demonstrate Catullus's mastery at portraying the relationships of mankind.

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Poem 40 is an address to Ravidus, a man whom we can assume Catullus knows well by his use of the diminutive "miselle" (Line 1). Catullus is upset because Ravidus "drives headfirst" into Catullus's poems (Line 2). The poet insists that Ravidus having called upon a god not well is trying to provoke a fight (Lines 3-4). Catullus does not understand what this man wants, but surmises that he seeks fame. In the end of the poem, we learn that Ravidus wished to love Catullus's loves (Lines 7-8). Thus, Catullus is resentful of Ravidus because he wants some of Catullus's lovers as his own, and offers rhetorical questions ending with a revealing final sentence to confront him, mixing throughout clever metaphors of Ravidus actually being in his poems.

The second address pertains to a much more violent relationship, as twice Catullus references weapons - "tela" (Lines 4, 7). The person in the second poem is another poet, presumably a rival, whom Catullus refers to as learned (Line 1) and having poems (Line 2). Catullus asserts that the addressee wants to drive weapons into Catullus's head (Lines 3-4). Catullus concludes by asserting that the addressee will bring danger (Line 8) "fixed at us." This relationship is extremely different than the previous, for it is not an argumentative clash between two lovers, but rather a real caution of violence.

AP[®] LATIN LITERATURE 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question LL2

Overview

This question tested students' understanding of Catullus 40 and 116 by asking them to discuss the ways in which the poet confronts his acquaintances, Ravidus and Gellius respectively, and to determine what these poems reveal about Catullus's relationship with each addressee. The question also tested their ability to analyze a Latin passage by requiring them to support their arguments with Latin citations from throughout the passage.

Sample: 2A

Score: 6

This is an excellent essay. At the end of the first paragraph, the student clearly establishes the relationship between Catullus and each of his two acquaintances ("Catullus' confrontations with his acquaintances reveals his rivalry with Ravidus over his lover, Lesbia, and his desire to resolve his conflict with Gellius"). In the discussion of Poem 40, the student supports the analysis of the essay with Latin references that are strong, confident, and properly cited. The student identifies the significance of iambs ("the traditional meter for humiliation"); correctly renders line 6 including the important implications of *qualubet*; and clearly establishes the rivalry between Catullus and Ravidus (lines 7–8). In the discussion of Poem 116, the student captures the idea that Catullus has tried hard to appease Gellius and is now forced to change tactics. The incorrect translation of line 6 does not spoil the overall interpretation of this poem. The student concludes with a brief summary of the essay that succinctly and accurately establishes a connection between these two poems.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

This is an adequate essay with uneven discussion that focuses more on Poem 40 than on Poem 116. For Poem 40, the student gives accurate discussion of the lines referenced, but several key couplets are overlooked. For Poem 116, although the student renders a solid interpretation of lines 1–2 and line 5, the rest of the poem is not discussed and the allusion to Poem 64 does not address the question and detracts from the focus of the essay.

Sample: 2C

Score: 3

Overall the student gave a limited response for this essay. Although for Poem 40 the student presents an adequate discussion of the poem, the Latin support is weak and not properly cited—for example, when the student writes, "Catullus does not understand what this man wants, but surmises that he seeks fame," there is no Latin anchor to support this statement. In discussing Poem 116, the student mischaracterizes the relationship between the poet and Gellius as "violent" and gives inaccurate Latin support for several statements.