

AP[®] LATIN: VERGIL
2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question V4

- 6** This is an excellent, well-organized essay. It makes liberal use of specific, appropriate references from the Latin text throughout the passage, properly cited. These references support the discussion of what the passage reveals about both Priam and Pyrrhus. Occasional mistakes need not spoil the general impression of the essay. More important than the number of Latin citations are the quality and completeness of the discussion and the general coherence of the argument.
- 5** This is a good, strong essay with a discerning discussion of what the passage reveals about both Priam and Pyrrhus. The discussion is either not as sophisticated or well-developed as a “6” or not quite as well-supported with textual references from throughout the passage. The references from the Latin, properly cited, appear confident, and the essay reflects more than casual familiarity with the passage.
- 4** This is an adequate essay with some accurate discussion of what the passage reveals about both Priam and Pyrrhus. The discussion may be uneven, with more on Priam than on Pyrrhus or vice versa; or it may be more descriptive than analytical. The Latin references, although perhaps scanty, are specific, accurate, and relevant.
- 3** This is a limited response that lacks adequate discussion of what the passage reveals about both Priam and Pyrrhus, or that discusses only Priam or only Pyrrhus. The answer tends to rely on description. In general, the Latin support is weak, possibly misconstrued, inappropriate, and/or not properly cited. Alternatively, the student may write a good essay reflecting knowledge of the passage but fail to cite any Latin to support the answer.
- 2** The student recognizes the passage but presents a vague or weak discussion. Statements are very general or irrelevant to the question. The student cites Latin but with only limited comprehension of the Latin in context or fails to cite any Latin at all.
- 1** The student understands the question but presents no meaningful discussion derived from the passage. Although no substantive argument is presented, the response does contain some correct information relevant to the question. The student demonstrates no understanding of the Latin in context or demonstrates a complete misunderstanding. The student may fail to cite any Latin or may only provide individual Latin words randomly selected.
- 0** The student gives a response that is totally irrelevant, totally incorrect, or merely restates the question. The student demonstrates no understanding of the Latin in context.
- This is a blank space or off-task answer (e.g., drawing, personal letter).

After Pyrrhus (Achilles son) slays Polites (Priam's son) in front of Priam, Priam addresses Pyrrhus vehemently and fearlessly in defiance of Pyrrhus's actions. Priam does not hold back his hatred and contempt (*nec voci inaeque peperit* line 2) but continues (~~et~~ *non abstinuit*) despite being caught in the middle of the destruction of his family and kingdom (*in media iam morte tenetur* lines). Priam calls Pyrrhus's deed a crime (*scelere*) and prays that there is such goodness in the gods to repay Pyrrhus for his daring (*pro talibus... debita* lines 3-6) and for making him perceive his sons death and defiling the face of a father (*qui rati... vultus* lines 6-7). Priam insults Pyrrhus by telling him he is not worthy to be the son of Achilles as he says (*satum quo te mentiris* line 8) because Achilles had honored the rights of a suppliant; ^(*supplicis* line 10) returning Hector's dead body (*corpus exsangue* line 10) and allowing Priam to return to Troy unharmed (*in mea regna remisit* line 11). Priam then hurls his useless spear at Pyrrhus (*senior... conerit* lines 12-13).

From this passage it is revealed that Priam, despite his old age and demonstrated weakness, is strong and brave as he calls Pyrrhus out for committing an unforgivable crime. Priam is unafraid of his own fate as he addresses Pyrrhus showing his dignity and bravery. Pyrrhus is an unredemable character. He committed an unredemable crime (killing the son in front of the father) and then gloating killed Priam in his sons blood on an altar.

17 Throughout this passage which describes Priam's fearless chastisement of Pyrrhus during the razing of Troy, Vergil develops both characters' identities, making Priam fearless and brave, and Pyrrhus a bloodthirsty murderer who doesn't honor propriety or the gods.

18 The passage begins w/ a statement about Priam's bravery in the face of certain death; it says, "Here Priam, although now is told in the middle of death, at last does not ~~with~~ ^{with} abstain ^{short} voice and does not spare anger" (ln. 1-2). This ~~short~~ ^{short} description does much to make Priam out to be an old, yet tireless warrior. Even more, Priam believes in the gods and in divine retribution as he demonstrates when he ~~chastises~~ ^{chastises} Pyrrhus for his crimes and hopes that Pyrrhus will get his just deserts. Pyrrhus, at this point, has defiled the sacred altars and killed Priam's son right before his own eyes, two things that describe Pyrrhus' pitiless and sacrilegious nature; Pyrrhus ~~says in response~~ describes these crimes, saying "you who made me discern the bloody death of the son and you who defiled the paternal faces with death" (ln. 6-7) to Pyrrhus. Even worse, Pyrrhus doesn't live up to his father Achilles' honor; whereas Achilles returned Priam's son Hector to him when he killed him, Pyrrhus instead killed the son and wants to kill the father as well. Later on, Pyrrhus would mock Priam's sentimentality (this part is not in the passage). As a final tribute to Priam's heroism in the face of death, Vergil writes the following passage: "And thus having spoken the old man threw the weapon, useless without a blow" (ln. 12-13).

In this passage there is a very sharp contrast between Priam and Pyrrhus. Priam, the aged King of Troy, knows in this passage he is about to die at the hands of Pyrrhus, ~~the~~ as seen in the first 2 lines. However, he still says the brave words in the passage, because of his own bravery. In the passage, lines 8-10, Pyrrhus is compared to his father Achilles. Priam praises Achilles for returning Hector's body, ~~and~~ but does not have nearly the same respect for Pyrrhus, who kills another one of Priam's sons before the old King's eyes. ~~at~~ In lines 12-3 at the end of the passage, we see Priam holding his useless weapon and bravely awaiting death ~~at the hands of~~ from the vicious Pyrrhus.

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2007 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question V4

Overview

The purpose of the question was for students to display their ability to analyze a Latin passage by discussing what Priam's last speech (*Aeneid* 2.533-45) reveals about both Priam and Pyrrhus and by supporting their arguments with accurate Latin citations from throughout the passage.

Sample: 4A

Score: 5

This is a strong essay. The student supports the discussion with accurate references to Latin. Although the analysis does not rise to the level of a 6, it reflects a solid familiarity with the text.

Sample: 4B

Score: 4

The discussion is adequate but uneven. The student could have better developed the essay by drawing on verses 4 to 6 and 8 to 9 to elaborate on Priam's belief in divine retribution and Pyrrhus's failure to live up to his father's standards. The Latin references given are nevertheless relevant and accurate.

Sample: 4C

Score: 3

The response is limited. Although the Latin references are appropriate, the apparent failure to consider verses 3 to 7 causes the student to overlook important aspects of both Priam and Pyrrhus and diminishes the overall impression of the essay.