

The AP Latin Program: Present and Future

Description

In this panel, members of the Advanced Placement Latin Test Development Committee will discuss various aspects of the Advanced Placement Vergil Exam and the current state of the AP Latin Program. The Vergil presentations will cover both the multiple-choice and free-response sections of the exam. The multiple-choice presentation will include preparing students for this part of the exam as well as a discussion of the statistical results and how they are used. The free-response presentation will focus on the only question on either exam not based on a Latin text: question V5 on the Vergil exam, which covers the *Aeneid* as a whole and especially the parts read in English. The presentation will include incorporating the parts read in English into the class schedule, classroom assessment of student knowledge, and preparing students for this question on the exam. The third presentation will focus on the Latin material available on the AP Central website, its organization, and how to use it. The fourth and final presentation will address current and future issues in the AP Latin Program, including the possible development of a combined authors exam that would replace the Vergil Exam in the future.

All parts of this presentation will be accompanied by handouts and include Power Point slides.

Abstracts

1) Multiple-Choice Section

In addition to the free-response section of the exam, AP Latin students must complete a multiple-choice section worth 40% of the grade. In this portion of the presentation a test development committee member and the Chief Reader will discuss various aspects of the multiple-choice section.

A limited number of types of questions appear on the multiple-choice portion of the exam, and so it can be very helpful for students to anticipate the forms questions may take. Examples from the 2005 examination will be used to illustrate the various types of questions which are asked and the ways in which the questions are worded. (E.g., only the most basic grammatical terminology is used on the examination; more complex concepts are tested with wording that does not require students to control terminology.)

The Chief Reader will discuss student performance on the multiple-choice portion of the 2005 exam and explain how statistics are used both to evaluate the efficacy of individual multiple-choice questions and to gauge the strength of the group of students who took one year's exam in relation to those from other years. She will also explain how this information is used in setting the cut points for scores on the AP exam as a whole (i.e., 5, 4, 3, 2, 1).

2) The English-based Vergil Essay

Question V5 on the AP Vergil Exam is the only question in the free-response section that is not based on a Latin passage; this question asks students to discuss the *Aeneid* as a whole, particularly the parts they have read in English. The format consists of a statement/discussion topic about the *Aeneid*, followed by two lists of characters, one list taken from the first six books and the other from the last six. Students are asked to respond to the statement or topic and to be sure to make use of specific examples in their response.

In this presentation, a test development committee member from a secondary school will discuss how she prepares her students for this question: how she plans the reading done in English, the kinds of classroom activities she conducts based on this reading, and the kinds of assessments she uses to determine if students have mastered the material. She will also discuss how to incorporate this material with the material read in Latin and give students a sense of the work as a whole.

The audience will join the presenter in examining authentic student responses to question V5 from the 2008 exam and in applying the grading standards which were used at the Reading.

3) Latin Resources Available on AP Central and How to Use Them

The presenter, the College Board Advisor for AP Latin, will discuss the organization of the AP Central Latin pages and the wealth of information that is found in them: past years' exam questions, scoring guidelines, and sample student answers with commentary by graders; publications such as a new *Teacher's Guide* and Curriculum Module on Strategies for Teaching and Assessing Vocabulary Acquisition in Latin, in addition to the *Course Description*; reviews of countless articles and books useful to those teaching the course. The site also contains a multiple-choice item writing tutorial for teachers with sample passages and questions.

4) The AP Latin Program: Present and Future

Committee members and the Chief Reader will present a summary of the current developments in AP Latin: the elimination of the Latin Literature Exam and the results of the planned College Board survey and Classics Colloquium regarding the future of the program. Most of the presentation will be devoted to obtaining feedback from the audience.