



Old Western Culture

A Christian Approach to the Great Books

Year 2: The Romans

Unit 1

The Aeneid

Vergil and Other Roman Epics



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA *Video Course*

Exam Answer Key

*Please Note: This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.
Download the latest revision at www.RomanRoadsMedia.com.*

NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions via “Ask Mr. C” by sending an email to AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com. We may respond by email or by a public video response if we feel this is a question many students would benefit in hearing more about.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.



HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the daily worksheets. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, most of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose how to use the extra exam.

“MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there *is* variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor —and should be received as such.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at questions@romanroadsmedia.com. We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!



The Aeneid

Exam A Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Why were the founding fathers of the United States so interested in Rome's political history? (12 pts.)

The story of the Roman Republic is the story of a people having discovered principles by which long-term stability can be enjoyed. For this reason, the founding fathers looked to the history of the Republican Period as an example in founding our nation.

2. What are the three divisions or stages that we can use to broadly summarize the political history of the Roman Empire? (10 pts.)

The three stages of the Roman Empire's political history are 1) 250 years of monarchy, from 753 to 509 B.C., 2) 500 years of republic from 509 to 30 B.C., the last century of which is dominated by civil wars, and 3) 500 years of empire, from Caesar Augustus in 30 B.C. to the final sack of Rome in 476 A.D.

3. How might Vergil have answered the accusation that his work was propaganda? (10 pts.)

Vergil would not have denied the charge, because he believed that Augustus had done great things for Rome, and he therefore wanted that belief to be propagated among his readers. Propaganda is a perfect passive participle in Latin that means "things that ought to be propagated."

4. As in Homer, the opening lines of this epic poem give us our subject and theme. What are they? (12 pts.)

The opening lines tell us this poem will recount the adventures and difficulties of Aeneas's wanderings from Troy to Rome as he seeks to establish a new realm and home for the exiled Trojans.

5. What prophetic messages does Aeneas receive during the sack of the city, and from whom does he receive them? (8 pts.)

As Aeneas is about to kill Helen, Venus informs him that Helen is not to blame. Venus unveils his eyes to see the gods themselves destroying Troy. She also warns him to go save his father, wife, and son before the Greeks overwhelm his house. Later, as Aeneas bids farewell to his wife before returning to the fight, a circle of flame appears around Iulus's head. With a peal of thunder Jupiter confirms this omen that Iulus will preserve the Trojan race.

6. How does Vergil describe the state of Carthage when Dido is distracted from her duties to the city? What point does this illustrate about the Roman idea of civic duty? (12 pts.)

Vergil describes how construction projects have stalled, men are no longer training for war, and the rebuilding of Carthage's city wall has come to a standstill while Dido has been distracted. The Romans would have recognized her failure to do her duty to the city as a tragic and shameful thing.

7. What is Anchises's purpose in calling Aeneas to the Underworld, and what does he show Aeneas? (10 pts.)

Anchises calls Aeneas to the Underworld and encourages Aeneas to fulfill his destiny by showing him the throngs of souls who will be reincarnated as his renowned and glorious descendants.

8. What images does Vulcan work into the shield Venus commissions for Aeneas? (8 pts.)

Vergil says that Vulcan, the Lord of Fire, knowing the prophets and the coming age, works the future story of Italy on the shield: Romulus and Remus, the theft of the Sabine women, the heroes Marcius and Cloelia, Cato giving laws, Agrippa, Antonius, Cleopatra, and long processions of conquered peoples.



9. After he kills Pallas, what does Turnus do? What does Vergil foreshadow about Turnus' fate? (8 pts.)

After he kills Pallas, Turnus take the decorated war belt from Pallas's corpse and gloats over it. Vergil foreshadows that there will come a time when Turnus will deeply regret killing Pallas and will rue the day he gloated over Pallas's corpse and took his armor as spoil.

10. How do Io's father and sisters find out about her transformation by Jupiter? (10 pts.)

Since Io has been turned into a cow and cannot speak, she uses her hooves to write her family a message in the dust.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What does Lucan's "epic question" tell us the subject of his work will be? (5 pts.)

Lucan begins his poem by lamenting the divisiveness and destruction of civil war, and so we know the subject of his Pharsalia will be the civil war between Julius Caesar and Pompey the Great.

12. How do Vergil and Homer differ in their conceptions of time? (5 pts.)

The Aeneid begins with Jupiter discussing Destiny, the future of Rome hundreds of years away. Where Homer thinks mostly about the present, in Vergil's story the past and the future feature more heavily.



The Aeneid

Exam B Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What must we study to understand the Great Books, in addition to the books themselves? (10 pts.)

To truly understand a book, especially an old book, we must study its historical context.

2. Describe some epic conventions that the Aeneid has in common with the Iliad and other epics. (12 pts.)

The Aeneid is in dactylic hexameter, and begins with an exordium, an epic question, and an invocation of the Muses. The story begins in medias res (in the middle of things), it contains catalogues and battles with the gods, and its characters sometimes have stock epithets attached to them.

3. In the second part of the opening section we have an epic question and its answer. What are they? (12 pts.)

The question is, Why did Juno hate Aeneas and the Trojans? Her hatred had three main reasons: First, Juno loved the city of Carthage best of all cities and did not want the Trojans to conquer it sometime in the future. Second, she had just helped the Greeks defeat the Trojans and was unwilling to see the Trojans rise triumphant from ruin. Third, she was still envious because Paris had slighted her beauty in choosing Venus, Aeneas's mother, as the fairest goddess.

4. What attitude did the early Christians have towards the truths in pagan literature, such as the Aeneid? (12 pts.)

The early Christians saw the truths in pagan works as foreshadowing of what was to come or as arrows that point to the real thing. The whispers of truth that are hidden in pagan works are fulfilled and made explicit in the gospel. Early Christians believed that God gave some truths to pagan cultures, not so that they would settle on them and be satisfied, but that they might be stirred up and long for something more, thus giving them a hunger for the gospel.



5. What experiences does Aeneas go through that are like Odysseus's? (10 pts.)

Like Odysseus, Aeneas sails through the strait between Scylla and Charybdis and also lands on the Cyclops's island. While he does not actually land on Circe's island, he does pass near it.

6. How does Aeneas's character grow after the tragedy of Dido? (8 pts.)

Aeneas is a very human character, a fallible hero. But after his failure with Dido, he never again makes the mistake of getting distracted from his purpose. He shows more humility and skepticism about his own integrity and shows more caution throughout the rest of the story.

7. What view of the afterlife do we see in Book 6? (10 pts.)

Virgil presents an afterlife where souls receive the fruit of their life on earth. The souls of just people roam in peace and happiness, while the souls of evil people are punished endlessly.

8. What three things does Alecto do for Juno to break the truce and stir up war? (8 pts.)

First, Alecto provokes Amata to rage, leading to frenzy among all the women and civil war in the royal house. Second, Alecto visits Turnus in a dream and incites him to war against the Trojans. Third, the Fury makes Ascanius and his young men restless and eager for strife. Ascanius then kills a pet deer, which sparks a fight between the Trojans and the Latians, further provoked to battle by Alecto.

9. How does Midas free himself from the blessing-turned-curse of the golden touch? (10 pts.)

Midas repents to Bacchus and begs for the curse to be removed. Bacchus directs him to wash himself in the headwaters of the river near Sardis. After doing this, Midas is freed, and the curse passes into the water.

10. What were the three great philosophies that competed for the minds and hearts of men in the Roman world? (8 pts.)

The three philosophies that dominated the Roman world were stoicism, skepticism, and Epicureanism.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What is one way Vergil's literary style is different than Homer's? (5 pts.)

Vergil, unlike Homer, engages in close descriptions of nature, painting powerful scenes of the natural world.

12. What does *aristeia* mean? (5 pts.)

"Aristeia" comes from the Greek word that means "most excellent," and in literature an aristeia is a moment when the story spotlights a character, showing him in all his excellent glory.