

Nōmen/Numerus: _____ / _____

Diēs: _____ | Latin Prose SY20 – Finnigan

Transition to Empire and Poetry – The Rise of the Empire & Life and Works of Vergil Comprehension Questions

Instructions: Please read the assigned essays and answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Your answers will be checked for two homework grades.

Source: Dettmer and Osburn, eds. *Latin for the New Millennium Student Text Level 3*. (Mundelein, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci, 2012)

ASSIGNMENT #1

Reading 1: “The Last Century of the Roman Republic,” pp. 7-8

1. What effect did the Gallic War have on Caesar?
2. Why did Caesar’s political survival depend on his being able to move directly from his governorship of Gaul to an elected magistracy?
3. What did the Senate order Caesar to do? What did Caesar do in response?
4. What did Caesar’s crossing of the Rubicon signal?
5. After Caesar crossed the Rubicon, what did Pompey and his supporters do? How does Caesar react?
6. Where and in what year was the decisive battle of the civil war between Caesar and Pompey fought?
7. Where and by whom was Pompey killed?
8. How did Caesar’s policy of *clementia* end up working against him?
9. When, where, and by whom was Caesar assassinated?
10. What did Caesar’s assassins hope would happen after his death?

Reading 2: “Augustus and the Principate,” pp. 220-228

11. How was it possible for Augustus to establish himself as a single ruler and stay in power?
12. Describe briefly Augustus’ rise to power.
13. How was the opposition between Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus resolved?
14. What happened to those who had conspired to assassinate Caesar?
15. What happened at Brundisium in 40 BCE?
16. What led to the dissolution of the Second Triumvirate?
17. When does Octavian declare war on Antony?
18. Where, when, and by whom is the decisive battle of this civil war fought? What happens to the combatants on both sides at the end of this battle?
19. What does Octavian do after his return to Rome in 30 BCE?
20. What remarkable assertion did Octavian make to the Senate at the start of 27 BCE? What did the Senate do in response?
21. Describe several of Augustus’ reforms.
22. Discuss Augustus’ changes to the army.
23. How did Roman territory increase under Augustus? What was the consequence he suffered for miscalculating how secure Roman control past the Rhine was?
24. What challenges did Augustus face in finding a successor? How did he deal with these challenges?

ASSIGNMENT #2

Reading 3: “Introduction to Vergil,” pp. 230-233

1. What is Vergil’s full name? Where and when was he born?
2. What do we know about Vergil’s early life and education?
3. In what meter did Vergil construct all of his poems? Who introduced this to Latin literature from the Greeks?
4. What effect did the tumultuous times that followed the assassination of Caesar have on Vergil?
5. What are the names of Vergil’s works? When did he publish them, and what were they about?
6. Who was Vergil’s patron?
7. When and where did Vergil die? Where was he buried? What instructions did he leave for the *Aeneid* if it was unfinished at the time of his death?
8. What evidence do we have indicating that Vergil never finished the *Aeneid*?

9. To what genre of poetry does the *Aeneid* belong?
10. What prior works served as a model and inspiration for Vergil's *Aeneid*? How do we know this?
11. What other authors and genres influenced Vergil?
12. How did Vergil expect his audience to interpret the events he narrates in the *Aeneid*?
13. What is the connection between Aeneas and Augustus' family?
14. What events in later Roman history does Vergil look ahead to in the *Aeneid*? Give specific examples.
15. Familiarize yourself with the following terms: *in mediās rēs*, flashback, invocation, catalogue, divine intervention, epithet, simile, dactylic hexameter (more on this later, but know the term)