



Chapter 11: Comprehension

EXERCISE 11.9: AUGUSTUS AND THE POETS



Read lines 1-10: Augustus amīcum nōtissimum ... multa carmina scrībō.

Summarise the story so far.



1. line 11: Vergilius quoque erat poëta clārissimus quī carmina nōtissima scrīpsit.

a. Who was Virgil?

_____ [2]

b. How does the language used here emphasise Virgil's status as a poet? You should explain how word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss one Latin word or phrase.

_____ [1]

2. lines 11-12: aliud carmen, Geōrgica nōmine, dē rūre scrīpsit

Virgil wrote a poem called the *Georgics*; what was this poem about? _____

_____ [1]

3. lines 12-13: scrīpsit dē Augustō aliud carmen, Aenēida nōmine, quod multī putābant Geōrgicīs multō melius esse.

What did many people think about Virgil's other poem, the *Aeneid*? _____

_____ [1]

4. lines 13-14: in hōc carmine Augustum laudāvit quod Augustus pācem omnibus Rōmānīs dederat.

On what grounds did Virgil praise Augustus in the *Aeneid*? _____

_____ [1]

5. lines 15-16: in hōc carmine pietātem quoque laudāvit, quod propter pietātem cīvēs patriam, nōn sē, amant.

a. Why did Virgil also praise the virtue *pietās* in the *Aeneid*? _____

_____ [2]

b. How does the language used here emphasise the importance of *pietās*? You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss one Latin word or phrase.

_____ [1]



6. lines 16-17: Vergilius autem carmen suum nōn laudāvit et, ubi perībat, hoc carmen incendere volēbat.

How do we know that Virgil was not happy with his own poem? _____
_____ [1]

7. lines 17-18: Augustus tamen hoc carmen servāvit, quod putābat optimum esse

Why did Augustus save the *Aeneid*? _____
_____ [1]

8. lines 18-19: 'hoc carmen mē laudat,' inquit Augustus, 'et mē ducem optimum esse ostendit. multī hoc carmen legere dēbent.'

Why did Augustus think that many people ought to read the *Aeneid*? _____
_____ [2]

9. lines 20-22: fortasse Vergilius carmen suum incendere volēbat quod laetitia minima in carmine est. Aenēas, hērōs huius carminis, semper miserrimus est: aliī virī fēminaeque quoque miserrimī sunt.

a. What reason is suggested to explain why Virgil may have wanted to burn the *Aeneid*? _____ [1]

b. What are we told about Aeneas and many of the other characters in the poem? _____ [1]

10. lines 22-23: fortasse Vergilius putābat pietātem esse difficillimam et miserrimōs esse eōs quī semper ducibus pārērent.

pietās was believed to be a very important Roman virtue; what are we told here that casts this virtue in a less positive light? _____

_____ [2]

11. What impression do you get from this story of the values and characters of Virgil and Augustus?

Explain your answer with reference to details from the story. _____



[3]

Grammar questions

1. line 14: Augustus pācem omnibus Rōmānīs dederat.

Identify the tense of *dederat* and translate it into English. _____

_____ [1]

2. lines 18-19: 'hoc carmen mē laudat,' inquit Augustus, 'et mē ducem optimum esse ostendit. multī hoc carmen legere dēbent.'

- a. *hoc carmen* appears twice in this sentence, once in the nominative case and once in the accusative case. Identify which is which and explain why the spelling is the same each time.

_____ [1]

- b. Identify the form of *esse* and explain why this form is needed here.

_____ [2]

3. lines 20-21: laetitia minima in carmine est.

What is the meaning of the superlative adjective *minima*? _____ [1]