**How to Study Latin Literature for Certamen**

**Latin Literature is one of the main four categories found only in the Advanced Level of Certamen. It comprises 20 % of all of the questions. As a category, Latin Literature encompasses important Roman authors from every period, all important works of Roman literature, and rhetorical and poetic terms and devices**.

**1. Places to Start:**

**A. Memorize the major Roman authors, the dates of their lives, their full names, birthplaces, and major work(s).** E.G., Livius Andronicus was born at Tarentum in 284 B.C., died in 204 B.C., and wrote the *Odusia****.*** With this knowledge, you will be able to quickly answer several Literature questions in the early tournaments (which often begin: “What Roman author, born in *date* …?”)

1. E-mail [gmolinacabezon@gmail.com](mailto:gmolinacabezon@gmail.com) to obtain a list of major Roman authors.

**B. Learn details about the lives of these major Roman authors.** Several questions begin with information about the author’s life before referring to their actual work(s).

**C. Clump certain authors together by genre of literature, birthplace, etc.** This will help you generate a mental list of authors when certain trigger words are read in a Certamen question (e.g. “What author of comedy…”). Here are some examples:

1. Comic Playwrights – Terence, Plautus, Caecilius Statius
2. Authors born in Spain – Martial, Lucan, Seneca the Younger, etc.

**D. Learn the members of the various literary circles. E.G., the Scipionic Circler, Maecenas’ circle, etc.**

**E. Learn the number of books in each of the major works of Latin Literature.** Several bonus questions will ask for solely this fact.

**F. Spend a good amount of time just on the *Aeneid*, learning the speakers and interlocutors of significant speeches.**

**2. The Next Step: Regionals Study Guides**

**A. Go to** [**www.fjcl.org/regional-study-guides.html**](http://www.fjcl.org/regional-study-guides.html) **and print copies of the Regionals Study Guides for Latin Literature**

**B. Make a flash card for each author, work, etc. Instead of this, you may want to keep a notebook and write your own Certamen questions. E.G.,**

**Q: Who wrote the *De Rerum Natura?***

**A: Lucretius**

**4. Reading Latin Literarure Books**

**A. *The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature* by M. C. Howatson (ISBN 0198661215)**

**B. *Latin Literature: A History* by Gian Biagio Conte (ISBN: 0801862531)**