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## EUROPEAN CERTAMEN 2018: European Citizenship: didactic practices between ancient and modern

State High School "Dante Alighieri" in Rome, in partnership with High School Terenzio Mamiani(Rome), member of the Operating Technical Committee of the National League of Classical Lyceums, in cooperation with experts from the Italian academic world and twinned with Wilhelmsgymnasium in Munich, Bavaria, organizes the IV transnational European Certamen.

## IV Certamen - Edition 2018

The aims of the *certamen* are:

- comparing old and new educational systems;
- enhancing educational approaches designed to develop students' reasoning skills and train people to
   become capable of justifying their own choices;
- reflecting on the concept of multiculturalism seen as the cohabitation of different cultures within the same
   nation;
- promoting the encounter with other cultures for a rational evaluation of all the different possibilities and the achievement of desirable convergence through dialogue;
- strengthening the exchange of good practices between European educational systems through student mobility;
- updating the approach to classical studies through laboratory based activities;
- emphasizing the connections between the teaching of Latin and Greek;
- reinforcing the European cultural identity by revisiting classical authors and texts both synchronically and diachronically.

The primary task of upper secondary education is to train young people to become active and aware citizens by developing their capacity to judge themselves and their traditions critically. In this regard education in the ancient world provides numerous examples concerning both rhetoric and philosophy. The Socratic method, firmly connected to the context of the city and its people's everyday lives, becomes a mode of approaching reality since it is based on the aptitude for reflecting on and investigating into the rightness of one's beliefs. Also with regard to rhetoric the school is essentially the place which creates the future citizen. In the school curriculum developed by Quintilian in *Institutio Oratoria* the technical and the moral education of the future orator, *vir bonus dicendi* 

*peritus,* directly coincide. So our intent is to consider how ancient didactic methods and practices could offer food for thought to the modern school, whose key purpose should be the development of the students' capacity to think for themselves and the education of individuals capable of justifying their choices thanks to the encounter with different cultures, in order to become aware of their role as European citizens.

The test will be divided into three sections.

- a- The first section, addressed to **the second year of classical high schools,** consists in the <u>translation</u> of three short passages, respectively in Latin, Greek and in one of the European languages chosen by the candidate among English, French or German, followed by a commentary in Italian or a foreign language;
- b- the second section, addressed to **the fourth and fifth years of classical high schools**, will focus on the analysis of appropriately selected texts of Greek and Latin authors and of modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidate will be required to produce a <u>short essay</u> in Italian or in one of the European languages to choose among English, French or German;
- c- The third section, addressed to the **fourth and fifth year of all types of high schools**, will focus on the analysis of appropriately selected texts of Greek and Latin authors (in translation) and modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidate will be required to produce a <u>short essay</u> in Italian or in one of the European languages to choose among English, French or German.

Each school can participate with a maximum of four students. Participation is limited and cannot exceed 70 (seventy) competitors.

In case of excess applications, a ranking list of applicants will be drawn. The best qualified Italian candidates will be selected on the basis of their school results at the end of the first trimester or four-month period of the current school year. The results will be measured by calculating the average marks obtained in both written and oral Latin and Greek tests (Classical schools). In case of equal marks, the overall average rating of all subjects in the curriculum will be taken into account. Foreign students will be selected according to the evaluation and assessment certification provided by their schools and in the event of a tie, early applicants will be given precedence.

The application form (to be completed by the school the applicant is enrolled in) must indicate each candidate's particulars, the course and class he/she is attending in the current school year and which section of the Certamen he/she is applying for.

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 is the deadline to submit applications. The application forms can be downloaded from www.liceodantealighieri.it. The completed forms, accompanied by required documentation, must be emailed by the schools to the Secretariat of the competition at rmpc07000I@pec.istruzione.it. The Secretariat of the competition is located at "LC Dante Alighieri" via Ennio Quirino Visconti n.13 – 00193 Roma. Secretary's office: Tel. 06121124725 – fax: 063216207 - email: rmpc07000I@pec.istruzione.it. For further information the contact person is Mrs Francesca Romana Rocchi.

Applications and certificates that are either incomplete or submitted after the set deadline will not be taken into account.

The 2018 edition of the competition will be held on February 19, 2018. Designated venues are as follows:

1. High School Terenzio Mamiani for the first section;

2. High School Dante Alighieri for the second and third sections

The test will last a maximum of four hours, beginning at 10:00 am and closing at 14.00.

Participants, carrying valid ID documents, will register for the test on the premises of the designated school from 09.00 to 09.45 of Monday, February 19, 2018.

The authors of the best two papers in each of the three sections will be awarded a prize at the sole discretion of the competition Committee chaired by Professor Roberto Nicolai Mastrofrancesco from Sapienza University of Rome.

The first prize for all three sections amounts to 200,00 euros; the second to 150.00 euros.

The award ceremony will take place at 11.00 am on Wednesday, February 21 2018.

## **COMPETITION RULES**

1. The EUROPEAN CERTAMEN 'European Citizenship: didactic practices between ancient and modern' is established on an annual basis.

The aim of the competition is to develop the following points:

- comparing ancient and modern educational systems;
- enhancing educational approaches designed to develop students' reasoning skills and train people to be capable of justifying their own choices;
- reflecting on the concept of multiculturalism seen as the cohabitation of different cultures within the same nation;
- promoting the encounter with other cultures for a rational evaluation of all the different possibilities and the achievement of desirable convergence through dialogue;
- strengthening the exchange of good practices between European educational systems through student mobility;
- updating the approach to classical studies through laboratory based activities;
- emphasizing the connections between the teaching of Latin and Greek;
- reinforcing the European cultural identity by exploring new paths to the study of classical and modern authors and texts through the adoption of both diachronic and synchronic approaches.
- 2. The competition is reserved for students attending the second, fourth and fifth years of classical high schools, the fourth and fifth year of all types of upper secondary schools and it is open to students from the European Union.
- 3. To enter the competition Italian students applying for the two sections reserved for classical high schools, must not have scored a mark below 8 in Latin and Greek in the 2016-2017 school report; European Union students are required to submit a statement issued by the school attended, certifying their level of knowledge of Latin and/or Greek (good, very good, excellent).
- 4. Each school may enter a maximum of four students. Participation is limited and may not exceed 70 (seventy) candidates. The number of students from EU schools is 20.

- 5. Students who in the previous two school years (or in the previous school year in the case of classical school students) were taught by a teacher who is now a member of the Certamen Committee, are not eligible to enter the competition.
- 6. The participation fee per student is fixed at 50,00 euros to be paid into postal account n. 60063005, or Banco Posta CODICE IBAN: IT88S0760103200000060063005 with the words Certamen 2018 as payment description. The schools involved will be in charge of the application forms and make sure that they are completed properly in each part. In case more students from the same school should apply for the competition the entrance fee is 30.00 euros per student.
- 7. A copy of the 2016-2017 school report must accompany the application forms of Italian students, while EU students must submit a certificate issued by their schools. Underage students are required to submit a written authorization signed by a parent or guardian.
- 8. The committee of the competition consists of thirteen members, will be chaired by a university professor and be thus constituted: three university professors and ten additional members chosen among high school teachers or recognized experts in Greek and Latin language and literature, philosophy, English, French and German. The committee chooses a vice-president and a secretary among its members. During the marking of papers the committee may divide into subcommittees, provided that final evaluations be agreed on collectively. Exclusive tasks of the committee members are the choice of the texts for the annual contest and the correction of papers.
- 9. Candidates may be accompanied by a teacher.
- 10. Every year, two months ahead of the competition date the Committee will communicate the topic covered in the examination papers.

Specifically, the theme of this year's edition will be *European Citizenship: didactic practices between ancient and modern.* 

The candidates can choose one of the following tests:

- a) Students in **the second year of classical high schools:** the <u>translation</u> of three short passages, respectively in Latin, Greek and in one of the European languages chosen by the candidate among English, French or German, followed by a commentary in Italian or a foreign language;
- b) Students in **the fourth and fifth year of classical high schools:** the analysis of appropriately selected texts of Greek and Latin authors and of modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidates will also be required to produce a <u>short essay</u> in Italian or in one of the European languages to choose among English, French or German;
- c) Students in the **fourth and fifth year of all types of high schools:** the analysis of appropriately selected texts of Greek and Latin authors (in translation) and modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidates will also be required to produce a <u>short essay</u> in Italian or in one of the European languages to choose among English, French or German.

Specifically, the analysis of ancient passages will include: Ps.-Plutarch (*De liberis educandis*) and Cicero (*De oratore*) for the first two-year study course; Isocrates (*Against the Sophists*), Plato (*Politeia*), Quintilian (*Institutio oratoria* I-II, XII) for students in the second year; Tacitus (*Dialogus de oratoribus*) for the fourth and fifth year.

Modern or contemporary works that candidates may be asked to analyse include Eleaonor Roosevelt (*Good Citizenship: the Purpose of Education*, in "Pictorial Review" 31, April 1930), Marguerite Yourcenar (*Les yeux ouverts*, Paris 1980), Jacques Delors (*L'Éducation: un trésor est caché dedans*), Report to Unesco of the International

Commission on Education for the twenty-first century, Paris 1996), Tahar Ben Jelloun (*Le racisme expliqué à ma fille*, Paris 1998), Malala Yousafzai (*Speech at the First Youth Takeover of the United Nations on July 12*, 2013) for the second-year candidates; Jean-Jacques Rousseau (*Émile, ou de l'éducation*, L'Aia 1762), Werner Jaeger (*Die Formung des griechischen Menschen*, I-III, Berlin-Leipzig 1933-44), John Dewey (*Experience and Education*, New York 1938), Zygmunt Bauman (*Liquid Modern Changes to Education*, Padova 2011).

## Recommended books to prepare for the Certamen include:

- H.I. Marrou, A History of Education in Antiquity, Studium, Rome 2016 (prefaced by G. Tognon).
- S.F. Bonner, *Education in Ancient Rome: from the Elder Cato to the Younger Pliny*, Armando Publisher, Rome 1986.
- E. Morin, *Insegnare a vivere. Manifesto per cambiare l'educazione*, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 2015.
- Martha C. Nussbaum, *Non per profitto*, il Mulino, Bologna 2011.
- Martha C. Nussbaum, *Coltivare l'umanità; i classici, il multiculturalismo, l'educazione contemporanea*, Carocci 2014.
- 11. The maximum duration of the test is four hours. Candidates are allowed to use Latin-Italian and Greek-Italian dictionaries as well as English, French and German dictionaries.
- 12. In order to ensure impartiality of judgement, test administration and evaluation procedures will conform to the rules laid down for public competitions.
- 13. Candidates cannot leave the examination premises until 3 hours have passed since the start of the exam.
- 14. The Committee is responsible for supervision and invigilation during the exam and to this purpose it can avail itself of additional members.
- 15. The authors of the best two papers in each of the three sections will be awarded a prize at the sole discretion of the Certamen Committee.
- 16. The first prize for the three sections in Italian and in a foreign language amounts to 200,00 euros; the second to 150.00 euros.
- 17. In case of an ex aequo, the amount of the prize will be equally shared by the winners.
- 18. All candidates will receive a certificate of participation.
- 19. All travel, accommodation and food costs will be paid by participants (facilitated conditions can be provided for accommodation).

Rome, November 27, 2017		
	Maria URSO	
	Head of Liceo D. Alighieri	



Alla Segreteria del Concorso
Liceo Classico Statale " Dante Alighieri"

Cittadinanza europea: pratiche didattiche fra antico e moderno
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Oggetto: iscrizione al *Certamen*: *Cittadinanza europea: pratiche didattiche fra antico e moderno* 

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