

Tests have two or more usually three sections, with four possible types of questions. Except for type 2, there are always a number of choices within each section.

I. Short answers. Answer any **N** of these questions. Example:

Briefly describe one incident from Roman history that the ancient writer(s) thought demonstrated the importance of adherence to religious duty.

II. This question will be phrased like the example but will not be about the work in the example, which was assigned for 27 January. It will be about one of the assigned scholarly readings, either sent as a pdf or to be found via JSTOR, for one of these dates: 5 February (Hopkins or Jones), 10 February (Pack or Bagnani or Fields), or 17 February (Roselaar). If either of the first two choices is the one on the test, the phrasing will begin "Describe how the journal article / book chapter you read about **Topic X** ..."

Example: Describe how the book chapter you read on dreams and visions approached its topic. Did the work of scholarship offer new insight, nothing new, confusion, contradiction, revelation or anything else?

III. Gobbets (excerpts from ancient authors). Choose **N** and answer as many as possible of these questions: who? what? when? where? why? how? and so what? **DO NOT** merely rewrite the information in the gobblet. Example:

Without delay, then, pushing the crowd aside, join my procession, and put your trust in my gracious disposition; then, having approached close, as though to kiss the hand of the priest, gently pluck the roses, and at once divest yourself of the hide of that abominable beast.

IV. Essay. Discuss any **one** of these questions. Example:

What aspects of Marcus Aurelius' thought can readily be reconciled with Christian beliefs as presented by Christian writers, and what, if any, cannot?

Test 1 in February will have the first three parts, no essay. General topics are these:

Shamans, powerful people, holy men and women

Belief systems and how they operate: dreams, oracles, cult practices

Society and religion within the Roman empire

Notions (with or without specific identity) of a great god

Lucian's works

The understanding (or lack) of Christianity by non-participants

Christian apologetics

Persecutions