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Ufficio Scolastico Regionale per il Lazio
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2015 Certamen: *The Cultural Frontiers of COSMOPOLITAN EUROPE*- a critical route across the classical and the contemporary world.

State High School *Dante Alighieri* in Rome, Italy, in consultation with academic experts and in partnership with the WilhelmsGymnasium in Munich, Bavaria, organizes the first transnational European Certamen.

I 2015 Edition of *The Cultural Frontiers of Cosmopolitan Europe Certamen*

Aims of the competition are:

- 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: Plato (eg. Republic, 337C), the Greek stoics, Panezio, Cicero, Seneca, Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius. Beside its natural and rational foundation, the classical world drew various lines of cosmopolitanism: the cultural one (which can be found in Democritus, Plato and Xenophon) and the eudaemonistic-utilitarian one (Cicero). Even such authors of the modern age as Erasmus, Voltaire and Kant dealt with this issue, in a line of research which in our present day has been redesigned by Thomas Pogge.

The test will be divided into two sections. The first section will focus on the analysis of an adequate selection of texts by Latin and Greek authors. The candidate will be required to produce a two-page essay in Italian based on the content of the selected texts.

The second section along with classical texts will also include contemporary authors and it will consist of a short essay of two pages in English.

Each school may enter a maximum of one student. Participation is limited and may not exceed fifty (50) candidates for the Italian section and 40 (forty) competing for the English section.

In case of applications exceeding the set number of participants, Italian students will be selected on the basis of their school results at the end of the first quarter of the current school year. A list of eligible participants will be drawn based on the average marks obtained in both written and oral Latin and Greek tests. In case of equal marks, the overall average rating of all subjects of 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 case of score equality, early applicants will be given precedence. The application form (which

must be filled out by the school the prospective participant is attending) must indicate the identity of single candidates and the course and class they are enrolled in in the current school year.

Saturday, January 10, 2015 is the deadline to submit the application forms. These will be downloaded from www.liceodantealighieri.it, filled in and emailed by the schools (with required documents attached) to the following address: rmpc07000l@pec.istruzione.it.

The secretariat of the competition is at LC "Dante Alighieri" via Ennio Quirino Visconti n.13 – 00193 Roma Secretary's office Tel: 06121124725 - fax 063216207 – e-mail: rmpc07000l@pec.istruzione.it.

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

The 2015 edition of the competition will be held on February 19, 2015 at the Liceo Classico "Dante Alighieri", Rome.

Registration of participants with a valid Identity Document will take place in the premises of Liceo Classico "Dante Alighieri" from 9.00 to 9.45 on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

The test will last up to four hours, commencing at 10.00 and ending at 14.00 p.m.

Two best papers awards for each section will be assigned by the competition Committee chaired by Professor Roberto Nicolai Mastrofrancesco, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the Sapienza University of Rome.

The Italian section first prize amounts to € 600.00; the second to € 350.00.

The first prize in the English language section amounts to € 600.00; the second to €350,00.

The award ceremony will take place at 11.00 am on Saturday, February 21, 2015.

For more information please contact the secretariat of the competition.

Competition Rules

1. The Certamen *The Cultural Frontiers of COSMOPOLITAN EUROPE* is established on an annual basis,

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- a) strengthen the exchange of good practices between European educational systems through student mobility;
- b) update the approach to classical studies through laboratory based activities;
- c) emphasize the connections between the teaching of Latin and of Greek;
- d) reinforce the European cultural identity by revisiting classical authors and texts both synchronically and diachronically through laboratory based activities.

2. The competition is open to Italian students attending the fourth year of grammar school (Liceo II) and to students of the European Union.

3. To enter the competition Italian students are required to score top marks (not below 8) in Latin and Greek (written and oral) in the report card of the school year in progress.

Students of the European Union are required to submit a statement, issued by the school they are attending, certifying their level of knowledge of Latin and Greek (good, very good or excellent).

4. Each school may enter a maximum of one student. Participation is limited and may not exceed fifty (50) candidates for the Italian section and 40 (forty) competing for the English section. The number of students from

EU schools allowed to participate is 15.

5. Students who in the previous two school years (or the previous academic year for students of the grammar school), were taught by a teacher who is now a member of the competition Committee, are not eligible to enter the competition.

6. The participation fee per student is set at € 50,00 to be paid into postal current account n. 60063005 or Banco Posta CODICE IBAN: IT88S0760103200000060063005

with the word *Certamen* written in the reference field (payment description) on the transfer form. The schools involved will be in charge of the application forms and make sure that they are completed properly in each part.

7. A copy of the current school year report card must be attached to the application form by Italian students, while an attendance certificate issued by their schools will be presented by EU students. Students under the age of 18 are required to submit a written authorization signed by a parent or guardian.

8. The competition committee is made up of seven members, will be chaired by a university professor and be thus constituted: two university teachers and five additional members chosen among professors or recognized experts in Latin and Greek language and literature. The committee chooses a vice-president and a secretary among its members. During the marking of papers, the committee may split into subcommittees; it is clear, however, that final evaluations will be decided upon collectively. Exclusive tasks of the committee members are the choice of texts for the annual contest and the correction of papers.

9. Participants may be accompanied by a teacher.

10. Candidates may choose one of the following tests:

a. Italian section: candidates must write a two-page essay presenting a cultural – historical perspective to be elaborated on the basis of the selected Greek and Latin texts and with the help of modern and / or contemporary authors. Specifically, the analysis of ancient texts will focus on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (Books II and V), the *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius; *De Officiis* by Cicero; *Consolatio to Helviam matrem* and *De otio* by Seneca. Modern and contemporary texts given for analysis will include: *Two Treatises of Government* by John Locke; *Democracy and Education* by John Dewey, *A Theory of Justice* by John Rawls; *Cultivating Humanity* by Martha Nussbaum.

b. English section: candidates must write a two-page essay presenting a cultural – historical perspective to be elaborated on the basis of the selected Greek and Latin texts and with the help of modern and / or contemporary authors. Specifically, the analysis of ancient texts will focus on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (Books II and V), the *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius; *De Officiis* by Cicero; *Consolatio to Helviam matrem* and *De otio* by Seneca. Modern and contemporary texts given for analysis will include: *Two Treatises of Government* by John Locke; *Democracy and Education* by John Dewey, *A Theory of Justice* by John Rawls; *Cultivating Humanity* by Martha Nussbaum.

Each year, two months before the competition starts, the committee will issue the names of the authors and the texts selected for the Certamen.

Specifically, this year's theme will be *The Boundaries of the Cosmopolitan World*.

11. Candidates will have 4 hours to complete their test. The use of Latin-Italian and Greek –Italian dictionaries is allowed as well as that of an English dictionary

12. In order to ensure impartiality of judgment, 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 competition 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 two best papers in each of the two sections will be awarded a prize. The Committee will be sole judge in the granting of the prizes. Its decision is final.

16. The first prize for the section in Italian and in English amounts to € 600.00; the second, to 350,00 EUR.

17. In case of equal results, the prize can be awarded *ex aequo* and the money be equally shared by winners.

18. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

19. All travel, accommodation and food costs will be paid by participants (A list of hotels and religious institutions at convenient rates will be provided). It is the participants' responsibility to book in time.