

TSJCL Certamen Questions
Novice Division, Round 1

TU #1: Say in Latin, “The man is in the city.” **VIR / HOMŌ IN URBE EST**
B1: Now say, “The women are walking toward the city.”

FĒMINAE AD / ERGA URBEM AMBULANT

B2: Finally, say, “Everybody, flee from the city!” **OMNĒS, FUGITĒ EX / AB URBE!**

TU #2: Who became the last king of Rome when he and his wife murdered his predecessor, Servius Tullius?

TARQUINIUS SUPERBUS / TARQUIN THE PROUD

B1: What son of Tarquinius Superbus set this in motion when he assaulted the woman Lucretia?

SEXTUS (TARQUINIUS)

B2: Brutus and Collatinus became the first pair to hold what position in the newly created Republic?

CONSUL

TU #3: Consider these beloved animated creatures: Nemo the fish, Winnie the Pooh the bear, Simba the lion, and Bambi the deer. Which would be most accurately described by the English word “leonine” (LEE-uh-nine)? **SIMBA / LION**

B1: From the same list (Nemo, Winnie the Pooh, Simba, Bambi), which would be most accurately described as “piscine” (PIE-seen)? **NEMO / FISH**

B2: The English word “asinine” (ASS-in-ine) means someone or something as foolish as a what? **DONKEY**

TU #4: Who am I? My achievements were canonized in a lost Greek epic by Peisander, I killed snakes in my cradle beside my twin brother, I am often depicted in a lion-skin cape, my name can be translated to “glory of Hera”, and my fourth wife was the goddess Hebe. **HERACLES**

B1: Name that twin brother of Heracles. **IPHICLES**

B2: Name any of Heracles’ first three wives. **MEGARA / OMPHALE / DEIANEIRA**

TU #5: Listen carefully to the following passage about a man’s trash cans, or “**nūgae**,” which I will read twice, then answer in LATIN the questions that follow.

venit illud tempus vītae ubi multī hominēs sunt similēs parentibus. ōlim marītus, quī cubiculum numquam lavābat, subitō nūgās lavāre coēpit. uxor, postquam clārās nūgās vīdit, marītum vehementer rīsīt.

Question: **quālēs sunt hominēs illō tempore vītae?** **SIMILĒS PARENTIBUS / CONIŪGĒS**

B1: **quid ūxor rīsīt?**

MARĪTUM / CLARĀS NŪGĀS

B2: **quid marītus numquam agēbat?**

CUBICULUM LAVĀBAT

TU #6: What Senonian chieftain replied “**vae victīs**” in response to the Romans complaints of his unfair demands when he invaded the city in 390 BC? **BRENNUS**

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- B1: Who was able to defend the Capitoline when he was alerted by the cackling of the sacred geese?
(M.) MANLIUS (CAPITOLINUS)
- B2: Where had Brennus defeated the Romans in battle before invading the city?
ALLIA (RIVER)

TU #7: Differentiate in meaning between **timeō** and **terreō**.

TIMEO - FEAR / BE SCARED; **TERREO** - SCARE

B1: What about **habeō** and **habitō**?

HABEO - HAVE; **HABITO** - LIVE / INHABIT

B2: Now try **rēs** and **rēx**.

RES - THING; **REX** - KING

TU #8:

Say in Latin, “of that wolf”.

ILLIUS / **ISTIUS** / **EIUS LUPĪ**

B1:

Keeping all else the same, make **illius lupī** dative.

ILLĪ LUPŌ

B2:

Keeping all else the same, make **illī lupō** nominative.

ILLE LUPUS

TU #9: What god used a trident to rule over the seas?

POSEIDON / NEPTUNE

B1: What four-legged land animal was sacred to Poseidon?

HORSE

B2: What type of destructive natural phenomenon was Poseidon said to cause?

EARTHQUAKE

TU #10: Name the three men who formed an **amīcitia** in 60 BC with the goals of seeking support for one’s business ventures in Asia, procuring land for another’s veterans, and securing the consulship for another in the following year?

(M. LICINIUS) CRASSUS, (CN.) POMPEIUS / POMPEY (MAGNUS), and (C. IULIUS) CAESAR

B1:

With whom did Caesar serve as co-consul in 59 BC?

(L. CALPURNIUS) BIBULUS

B2:

Where did the members of this triumvirate meet in 56 BC to reaffirm their **amīcitia**?

LUCA

TU #11: Thanks for tuning in to WSPQR radio! Translate the song title **Sanguis Malus**, a Taylor Swift song re-released in 2023.

BAD BLOOD (accept other literal translations)

B1: Today we’re celebrating a song that’s ten years old as of 2024, and an absolute banger in the opinion of this writer. Which song might have been released in Rome under the title **Tacē et Saltā** by the band **Ambulā Lūnam**?

SHUT UP AND DANCE

B2: Ten years before that saw the release of the song “1985”. We won’t make you convert that year to Roman dating, but please do convert it to Roman numerals.

MCMLXXXV

TU #12: Give the dative plural form of **canis**, meaning “for the dogs”.

CANIBUS

B1: Make **canibus** singular.

CANĪ

B2: Make **canī** accusative.

CANEM

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TU #13: What drink was made of wine and honey?
MULSUM

B1: What by-product was made by fermenting the intestines and other waste parts of fish?

B2: **GARUM / LIQUĀMEN**
What delicacy was known to the Romans as **glīs**?
DORMOUSE

TU #14: What is the second word in the Latin mottoes of both Virginia and West Virginia, completing the phrases **montānī blank liberī** and **sic blank tyrannīs**? **SEMPER**

B1&2: For five points each, translate those two mottos, **montānī semper liberī** and **sic semper tyrannīs**.
MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE and THUS ALWAYS TO TYRANTS

TU #15: On the island of Crete what monster was housed in a famous maze built specifically to contain him?

B1: Who was the designer of the Labyrinth, later imprisoned on suspicion of helping a hero escape from it?
MINOTAUR
DAEDALUS

B2: How did Daedalus and his son eventually escape that imprisonment?
FLYING WITH WINGS (INVENTED BY DAEDALUS)

TU #16: Translate this sentence into English: **magistra liberīs multās fābulās nārrābat.**

B1: **THE TEACHER WAS TELLING MANY STORIES TO THE CHILDREN.**
Try this one: **magistrī optimī linguam Latīnam discipulōs docent.**

B2: **THE BEST TEACHERS TEACH STUDENTS (THE) LATIN (LANGUAGE)**
Now try this one: **discipulī quī fābulās Latīnās legunt magistrōs dēlectant.**
STUDENTS WHO READ LATIN STORIES DELIGHT (their) TEACHERS.

TU #17: What arrogant woman foolishly challenged the goddess Athena to a weaving contest? **ARACHNE**

B1: How was Arachne punished for her hubris after she was defeated? **TURNED INTO A SPIDER**

B2: Name one of Athena's other godly domains, besides weaving and other handicrafts.
WISDOM / WAR / TACTICS

TU #18: What term described the oldest living male of a Roman household?
PATER FAMILIĀS

B1: What two-word phrase described the power of life and death that the **pater familiās** held over the other members of his family?
PATRIA POTESTĀS

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B2: What was the one-word term for the similar but more limited power that a Roman husband held over his wife under certain forms of marriage? **MANUS**

TU #19: The English words compute, impute, and putative all derive from what Latin verb, with what meaning? **PUTŌ – THINK**

B1: What other English verb, meaning “to remove a limb by surgery,” also derives from another meaning of **putō**? **AMPUTATE**

B2: Name the English noun that means “an important assistant to the leader of an organization” and is also derived from **putō**. **DEPUTY**

TU #20: What woman opened a box which released all evils and hardships on mankind? **PANDORA**

B1: Who married Pandora despite his brother’s warning not to accept a gift from Zeus? **EPIMETHEUS**

B2: What positive element remained in the box that Pandora opened? **HOPE**

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TU #1: Give the 3rd person plural present tense form of **faciō**, meaning “they make”. **FACIUNT**
B1: Leaving all else the same, make **faciunt** perfect tense, meaning “they made”. **FĒCĒRUNT**
B2: Leaving all else the same, make **fēcērunt** second person, meaning “y’all made”. **FĒCISTIS**

TU #2: **respondē Latīnē: quis est rēgīna deōrum?** **IŪNŌ**
B1: **respondē Latīnē: quis est soror Iūnōnis et māter Proserpinae?** **CĒRĒS**
B2: **respondē Latīnē: quis est marītus Proserpinae et rēx mortuōrum?** **PLŪTŌ**

TU #3: What ruler of Epirus won a pair of battles against the Romans at such a great cost that he declared “another such victory and I am utterly lost” and his name became synonymous with victories that are more costly than their worth? **PYRRHUS**

B1: What animal did the Romans first see in battle during this war? **ELEPHANTS**

B2: Where did the Romans defeat Pyrrhus in 275 BC? **BENEVENTUM / MALEVENTUM**

TU #4: Say in Latin, “The very happy boys were entering the house.” **PUERĪ LAETISSIMĪ (IN) VĪLLAM / DOMUM / CASAM INTRĀBANT**
B1: Now say, “We saw the happy boys.” **(NŌS) PUERŌS LAETŌS VĪDIMUS / VIDĒBĀMUS**
B2: Finally, say, “Why were the boys happy?” **CŪR PUERĪ LAETĪ ERANT?**

TU #5: Upon which river of the Underworld did gods swear their oaths? **STYX**

B1: Which was the river of forgetfulness? **LETHE**

B2: What was the river Phlegethon made of? **FIRE**

TU #6: When in the course of a day would a Roman sit down for **prandium**? **MIDDAY / LUNCHTIME**
B1: What Latin term was used for the meal that Roman would already have eaten earlier in the day? **IENTĀCULUM**

B2: Which of the following modern breakfast foods could the Romans have enjoyed if they were so inclined: chocolate chip pancakes, corn muffins, omelets, orange juice. **OMELETS**

TU #7: Who single-handedly defended the Pons Sublicius from an attack of the Etruscans during the early Republic? **HORATIUS (COCLES)**

B1: Name the Etruscan king who was trying to besiege Rome. **LARS PORSENNA**

B2: What woman received an equestrian statue in the Forum after she was released by Porsenna, after having previously escaped and freed several other female captives? **CLOELIA**

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TU #8: Listen carefully to the following passage, which I will read twice, and answer the questions that follow in ENGLISH.

lūdus nōmine “trīgōn” iubet trēs athlētās manū dextrā iacere et sinistrā pīlam capere. paucī discipulī, cupientēs ōtium ab linguā latīnā, frustrā hunc lūdum lūdēbant, quod nēmō pīlam parvam capere potuit quam tantā vī iaciēbant.

The question: How are the students supposed to catch the ball? WITH THEIR LEFT HAND

B1: Give one reason why no one could catch the ball.

IT WAS (TOO) SMALL / IT WAS THROWN WITH GREAT FORCE / vel sim.

B2: Why did the students start playing **trīgōn**?

THEY WANTED FREE TIME / LEISURE FROM THEIR LATIN

TU #9: **quid significat “hortus”?** GARDEN

B1: **quid significat “equus”?** HORSE

B2: **quid significat “via”?** ROAD

TU #10: Translate the following sentence into English: **pecūniam agricolae saepe dedimus.**

WE OFTEN GAVE MONEY TO THE FARMER

B1: Now try this one: **agricolae diū et dīlīgenter labōrābant.**

THE FARMERS WERE WORKING DILIGENTLY (and) FOR A LONG TIME.

B2: Finally, try this one: **porcus agricolae numquam in agrīs sedet.**

THE FARMER’S PIG NEVER SITS IN THE FIELDS.

TU #11: Which of the following words is NOT derived from the Latin noun **terra**: subterranean, terrible, territory, terrier? TERRIBLE

B1: Which of these words is NOT derived from the Latin noun **sōl**: solstice, solar, obsolete, parasol?

OBSOLETE

B2: Which of these words is NOT derived from the Latin noun **mare**: marriage, submarine, maritime, marinate? MARRIAGE

TU #12: With which god was the oracle at Delphi primarily associated? APOLLO

B1: Which other Greek goddess was Apollo’s twin? ARTEMIS

B2: By what name did the Romans call Artemis? DIANA

TU #13: Which Roman political office was created after the plebeians left Rome and were convinced to return in exchange for an official to protect their rights? TRIBUNE (OF THE PLEBS)

B1: What term was given to this temporary absence of the plebeians, which occurred four more times during the early Republic? SECESSION

B2: Name the senator who convinced the plebeians to return with his parable about the belly and its

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limbs which function together?

MENENIUS (AGRIPPA)

TU #14:

Distinguish in meaning between the Latin verbs **spērō** and **spīrō**.

SPĒRŌ – HOPE; **SPĪRŌ** – BREATHE.

B1:

What English noun meaning “plot” is derived from **spīrō**?
CONSPIRACY

B2:

What other English noun meaning “sweat” is also derived from **spīrō**?
PERSPIRATION

TU #15: According to some accounts, with which other Olympian deity did Ares father his two wartime companions, Phobos and Deimos? APHRODITE

B1: Name Ares’ sister whose golden apple instigated the events of the Trojan War. ERIS

B2: To which Olympian deity was that golden apple awarded? APHRODITE

TU #16: Translate the following sentence into English: **quid gladiātōrēs heri faciēbant?**

WHAT WERE THE GLADIATORS DOING / MAKING YESTERDAY?

B1:

How about this one: **lūduntne infāntēs in hortō?**

ARE THE BABIES PLAYING IN THE GARDEN?

B2:

And this one? **num prope fenestram frāctam dormiēmus?**

SURELY WE WON’T SLEEP NEAR THE BROKEN WINDOW, RIGHT? vel sim.

TU #17: Suppose you have some medicine which is to be taken “before 9 a.m. p.o.”. Give the full Latin phrase and its English meaning represented by “a.m.”. **ANTE MERIDIEM**, BEFORE NOON

B1: Okay, so you’re supposed to take it in the morning. *How* should you take it?
BY MOUTH (**per ōs**)

B2: Your brother has some medicine which is to be taken “p.r.n.”. How often does he need to take this?
AS THE NEED ARISES / WHENEVER NEEDED (**prō rē nātā**)

TU #18: In round 1 we discussed the Minotaur who was trapped in the Labyrinth. Which Athenian hero persuaded his father to send him as one of the periodic sacrifices to this monster, so that he could slay it and end the tradition of sacrifice? THESEUS

B1: The Minotaur was not the only bull-creature Theseus contended with in his life. Prior to his journey to the Labyrinth in Crete, Theseus captured a great bull near what Greek town before bringing it back to Athens for sacrifice? MARATHON

B2: According to some versions of the story, which sorceress and consort of Theseus’ father sent Theseus to capture the Marathonian bull? MEDEA

TU #19: What article of clothing was generally worn over a **tunica**, and was considered the standard clothing

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of a Roman citizen?

TOGA

B1:

What type of person would wear a **toga candida**?

CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

B2: What is the Latin term for the dingy toga that was worn by people mourning the loss of a loved one?

TOGA PULLA

TU #20: Welcome to the Cinema Romana! What 2023 fantasy heist comedy film, had it been released in Rome, might have been subtitled ***Honor Inter Fūrēs***?

(*Dungeons & Dragons*) **HONOR AMONG THIEVES** (accept other literal translations)

B1: But maybe you're more of a Netflix/Paramount/Amazon Romana kind of person. What peri-apocalyptic streaming series might the Romans have called ***Ōmina Bona***? **GOOD OMENS**

B2: What post-apocalyptic horror series, which ended in 2022, might the Romans have called ***Mortuī Ambulantēs***? **THE WALKING DEAD**

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TU #1: From what Latin verb, with what meaning, are the English words repeat, petulant, and appetite all derived? **PETŌ, SEEK / ASK / HUNT**

B1: What other derivative of **petō** means “to strive to outdo another”? **COMPETE**

B2: What other derivative of **petō** means “characterized by sudden or rash action”? **IMPETUOUS**

TU #2: What war began when an enemy of Rome violated the Ebro River treaty, and marched into Italy with his army and war elephants which he had led through Spain and across the Alps Mountains in 219 B.C.? **2ND PUNIC WAR**

B1: Name this Carthaginian general, who led one of the most successful campaigns against the Romans until his eventual defeat in 202 BC? **HANNIBAL (BARCA)**

B2: Near what town in North Africa was Hannibal finally defeated by Scipio Africanus? **ZAMA (REGIA) / NARRAGARA**

TU #3: Time for some mythological math... Take the number of muses and add the number of heads of Cerberus. Divide all that by the number of Fates. How many is this? **FOUR ((9+3)/3)**

B1: Name any of the three Fates. **CLOTHO / LACHESIS / ATROPOS**

B2: In the fabulous but dubiously accurate Disney movie *Hercules*, the fates are shown sharing one eye. According to ancient tradition, the sisters who shared one eye were not the Fates but who? **GRAIAE**

TU #4: Translate the following sentence into English: **avēs mēcum laetē cantābunt.** **BIRDS WILL SING HAPPILY WITH ME**

B1: Now try this one: **tīmor ipse multō peior est quam perīculum.**

FEAR ITSELF IS MUCH WORSE THAN DANGER

B2: How about this one: **animālia quam celerrimē per silvās cucurrērunt.**

ANIMALS RAN THROUGH THE WOODS / FORESTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

TU #5: **Respondē Latīnē: quae pars ōrātiōnis est “mīles”, verbum an adverbium an nōmen an adiectīvum?** **NŌMEN**

B1: **respondē Latīnē: estne “mīles” nōmen singulāre an plūrāle?** **SINGULĀRE**

B2: **respondē Latīnē: cuius cāsūs est “mīles”, nōminātīvī an datīvī an accūsātīvī?** **NŌMINĀTĪVĪ**

TU #6: What king of Rome, by employing 12 priests to protect an object that fell from the sky, created the college of the **Salīi** in addition to instituting the **flāminēs** and importing the cult of the Vestal Virgins from Alba Longa? **NUMA POMPILIUS**

B1: What was the Latin term for the original shield that fell from the sky and its eleven replicas?

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ANCILIA / ANCILE

B2: What nymph was said to be the divine consort of Numa?
EGERIA

TU #7: Who encountered the cannibalistic Laestrygonians and faced several other dangerous situations while on his journey home to Ithaca after the Trojan War? ODYSSEUS
B1: How many years did it take for him to return home after the Trojan War ended? 10
B2: What faithful wife of Odysseus refused to marry any of her various suitors while Odysseus was away? PENELOPE

TU #8: Listen carefully to the following passage about a president or “**prīnceps**”, which I will read twice, then answer in ENGLISH the questions that follow.

prīnceps Iacōbus quattuor mēnsēs in officiō ante mortem remānēbat. hic prīnceps omnēs aliōs prīncipēs scientiā linguārum antiquārum superāvit. itaque Iacōbus sententiās Latīnās et Graecās simul scrībere potuit.

The question: How many months was this president in office?
FOUR

B1: About what did this president know more than any others?
ANCIENT LANGUAGES

B2: What two impressive things was this president able to do at the same time?
WRITE LATIN & GREEK (SENTENCES)

TU #9: Say in Latin, “I have waited a long time and I want to leave.”
(ego) **DIŪ MĀNSĪ / EXSPECTĀVĪ ET DISCĒDERE / ABĪRE / EXĪRE VOLŌ / CUIPŌ**

B1: Now say, “Marcus! Don’t leave! The doctor will see you now.”
MARCE, NŌLĪ DISCĒDERE / ABĪRE / EXĪRE! MEDICUS NUNC TĒ VIDĒBIT

B2: Finally, say, “Will he be able to help me?”
MĒNE ADIUVĀRE POTERIT? / POTERITNE MIHI AUXILIUM FERRE?

TU #10: Rumors that storms and wolves had carried off boundary markers of his proposed colony, forced what tribune to abandon plans for Iunonia which he had tried to establish on the former site of Carthage which was alleged to be cursed? GAIUS GRACCHUS

B1: What fellow tribune stirred up the populace against Gaius Gracchus, and instead passed a bill which would create 12 provinces in Italy for the poor? (M. LIVIUS) DRUSUS THE ELDER

B2: What consul put down the rebellion of Gaius Gracchus by the order of a **Senātūs Cōnsultum Ultimum**, which led to Gracchus’ death? (L.) OPIMIUS

TU #11: Give the form of the adjective **fortis** that agrees with the noun form **puellās**. **FORTĒS / FORTĪS**

B1: Give the form of **fortis** that agrees with the noun form **lupōs**. **FORTĒS / FORTĪS**

B2: Give the form of **fortis** that agrees with the noun form **rēx**. **FORTIS**

TU #12: Which room in the Roman baths relied on the use of its **alveus** and **testūdō** to produce hot

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water for its guests?

CALDĀRIUM

B1:

Which room in the baths was used for cold baths?

FRĪGIDĀRIUM

B2: Which room in the baths was furnished with benches for guests to use while changing clothes?

APODYTĒRIUM

TU #13: What mythical monster was slain by Bellerophon, breathed fire, and bore the combined appearance of a lion, a goat, and a snake?

THE CHIMERA

B1:

What mythical creature aided Bellerophon in his attack on the Chimera?

PEGASUS

B2:

Who were the Chimera's parents?

TYPHON AND ECHIDNA

TU #14:

Translate the motto of Oklahoma: **Labor omnia vincit.**

WORK CONQUERS ALL (THINGS)

B1:

What neighboring state has the motto **Regnat populus?**

ARKANSAS

B2:

What is the motto of the state of Kansas?

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

TU #15: A three-pronged spear called a **fuscina** was the primary weapon of which gladiator who was distinguished for his use of a net?

RETIARIUS

B1:

Which type of gladiator was the usual opponent of a **rētiārius**?

SECŪTOR

B2:

What is the Latin term for a trainer of gladiators?

LANISTA

TU #16: When recognized, perform the following command or describe how to do so: **pōne manūs tuās in oculōs tuōs et dīc Anglicē “tē vidēre nōn possum, itaque mē nōn vidēre potes.”**

PLAYER SHOULD COVER EYES WITH THEIR HANDS AND SAY

“I CAN’T SEE YOU SO YOU CAN’T SEE ME”

B1:

Now try this one: **omnēs pōnite capita in mēnsam et simulātē dormīre.**

ALL PLAYERS SHOULD PUT THEIR HEADS ON THE TABLE AND PRETEND TO SLEEP

B2: Now this one: **salūtātē moderātōrem manibus vestrīs et dīcite omnēs Anglicē “grātiās!”**

ALL PLAYERS SHOULD WAVE / SALUTE TO THE MODERATOR

AND SAY “THANK YOU!” or “THANKS!”

TU #17: Which of the following does not belong based on meaning: **cēna, cibus, diēs, panis**

DIĒS

B1: Which of these does not belong based on meaning: **soror, māter, silva, filius**

SILVA

B2: Which of these does not belong based on meaning: **flūmen, manus, caput, oculus**

FLŪMEN

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TU #18: What was the name for the staff that Mercury was often depicted as carrying?
CADUCEUS

B1: Bacchus, too, was frequently shown with a staff known by what term?
THYRSUS

B2: With which Roman deity was the bident associated?
PLUTO

TU #19: Of the words **pāx**, **mōns**, **nix**, and **īra**, which is described by this sentence? **hominēs quī in locīs semper calidīs habitant numquam hoc spectāculum vident.** **NIX**

B1: Of the words **pāx**, **mōns**, **nix**, and **īra**, which is described here? **ubi nihil bellī et nihil clāmōris est.** **PĀX**

B2: What English verb, derived from **pāx**, means to satisfy or soothe? **APPEASE / PACIFY**

TU #20: Which of the following characters from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* does not belong based on their transformed shape: Baucis, Callisto, Daphne, Philemon **CALLISTO**

B1: Into what was Callisto transformed? **a BEAR**

B2: Into what were the others transformed? **TREES (OAK, LAUREL, LINDEN)**