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2017 EUROPEAN CERTAMEN: *The European identity between interpretation and the rewriting of myth*

State High School *Dante Alighieri* in Rome, Italy, in partnership with High Schools Terenzio Mamiani, Augusto and Talete, in cooperation with Italian academic experts and twinned with *Wilhelmsgymnasium* in Munich, Bavaria, organizes the third transnational European Certamen.

2017: Certamen Third Edition

Aims of the competition are:

- reading myth as a key for interpreting the cultural, socio-economic, and political structures of a civilization;
- reflecting on the concept of multiculturalism, understood as the coexistence of different cultures within the same country;
- promoting cross-cultural communication for a rational assessment of all the different possibilities in order to arrive at a 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.

In particular the myth of the rape of Europa, in the various rewritings of ancient and modern authors, can be read as a continuous search for the roots of the European cultural unity and as a legitimation of political, socio-economic and religious choices. Myth then as an 'a posteriori' construction of one's own foundations, a palimpsest which is constantly rewritten and adapted to the needs of the times. This is the operation performed by classical writers such as Herodotus, Plato, Horace, Ovid or modern and contemporary thinkers such as Montesquieu, Edmund Husserl, Robert Musil, Thomas S. Eliot, Jean-Pierre Vernant in the perspective of a conscious identity and cultural unity, beyond multilingualism and national barriers. It is precisely in the classical world that the idea of a united Europe has its roots and the myth may be an opportunity to rediscover its

essence.

Certamen test

The test will be divided into three sections.

- the first, open to the second year students of classical high schools, includes the translation of three short passages, respectively in Latin, Greek and in one of the European languages chosen by the candidate among English, French or German, accompanied by a commentary in Italian or in a foreign language;
- The second, open to the fourth and fifth year 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 short essay in Italian or in one of the European languages to choose among English, French or German;
- 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 (with parallel texts in translation) and modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidate will be required to produce a short essay in Italian or in one of the European languages to be chosen 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, Italian students will be selected on the basis of their school results at the end of the first term 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 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 and the course and class he/she is attending in the current school year.

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 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 rmpc07000l@struzione.it; or liceo_dante@virgilio.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: rmpc07000l@struzione.it; or liceo_dante@virgilio.it

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

The 2017 edition of the competition will be held on February 22, 2017. Designated venues are as follows:

- High School Terenzio Mamiani for the first section;
- High School Dante Alighieri for the second section;
- High Schools Augusto and Taletè for the third section

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 on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

Two best paper awards for each section will be assigned by 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 Friday, February 24, 2017 in the Odeion Hall at Sapienza University in Rome.

For more information please contact the secretariat of the competition

Competition Rules

1. The CERTAMEN *The European identity between interpretation and the rewriting of myth* is established on an annual basis.

Aims of the competition are to enhance the following points:

- a) reading myth as a key to interpreting the cultural, socio-economic, and political structures of a civilization;
- b) reflecting on the concept of multiculturalism, understood as the coexistence of different cultures within the same country;
- c) promoting cross-cultural communication for a rational assessment of all the different possibilities and to achieve desirable convergence through dialogue;
- d) strengthening the exchange of good practices between European educational systems through student mobility;
- e) modernising classical studies through laboratory based activities;
- f) emphasizing the links between the teaching of Latin and Greek;
- g) reinforcing the European cultural identity by planning 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 open to students attending the second, fourth and fifth year of Classical High Schools, the fourth and fifth year of high schools of any type and to EU students.

3. To enter the competition Italian students are required to score top marks (not below eight) in Latin and Greek (only for the two sections intended for Classical High Schools) in their 2015-2016 school reports.

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

4. Each school can participate with a maximum of four students. Participation is limited and cannot exceed 70 (seventy) candidates. The number of students from EU schools allowed to participate is 20.

5. Students who, in the previous two school years or in the previous school 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 fixed at 50.00 euros to be paid into postal account n. 60063005, or Banco Posta CODICE IBAN: IT88S0760103200000060063005 writing Certamen 2017 in the reference field (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 2015-2016 school report must accompany the application forms of Italian students, while EU students must submit a statement of results 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 correction 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, this year's theme will be the 'European Identity between interpretation and the rewriting of myth'.

The candidates can choose one of the following tests:

- a. **Second year classical high school students:** the translation of three short passages, respectively in Latin, Greek and a European language of the candidate's choice, either English, French or German, accompanied by a commentary in Italian or in a foreign language;
- b. **Fourth and fifth year classical high school students:** the analysis of appropriately selected texts by Greek and Latin authors, and modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidate will be required to produce a short essay in Italian or in one of the European languages of his choice (English, French or German);
- c. **Fourth and fifth year students from any type of high school:** analysis of appropriately selected texts by Greek and Latin authors (with parallel texts in translation) and by modern and contemporary philosophers; the candidate will be required to produce a short essay in Italian or in a European language of his choice, either English, French or German.

To prepare for the Certamen the following books are recommended:

- Hans-Georg Gadamer, *Das Erbe Europas*, Frankfurt a.M., Suhrkamp, 1990.
- Armando Gnisci, *Noialtri europei*, Roma, Bulzoni, 1994;
- Luisa Passerini, *Il mito di Europa. Radici antiche per nuovi simboli*, Firenze, Giunti, 2002;
- Giovanni Reale, *Radici culturali e spirituali dell'Europa. Per una rinascita dell'uomo europeo*, Milano, Cortina, 2007;
- Eva Cantarella, *Miti di fondazione*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2012;
- Federico Chabod, *Storia dell'idea d'Europa*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2007;

- Massimo Cacciari, *Europe and Empire*, New York, Fordham U. P., 2016.

11. The maximum duration of the test is fixed at four hours. It is allowed to use Latin-Italian and Greek-Italian dictionaries as well as English, French and German dictionaries.

12. In order to ensure impartial judgment, test administration and scoring 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 two best papers in each of the three sections will be awarded a prize. The Committee will be sole judge in the granting of the prizes and its decision is final.

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 a tie, the prize will be equally divided between winners.

18. All candidates will receive a certificate of participation.

19. All travel, accommodation and food expenses are covered by the participants. Special accommodation rates may be made available.

Rome, October 10, 2016

The headteacher

Maria URSO

la Segreteria del Concorso

L'identità europea fra riscrittura e interpretazione del mito

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Oggetto: iscrizione al *Certamen*: **L'identità europea fra riscrittura e interpretazione del mito**

Il/La sottoscritto/a _____ alunno/a frequentante la

classe _____ sez. _____ dell'istituto _____ di _____

chiede di partecipare al *Certamen* che si svolgerà presso codesto istituto dal **22 al 24 febbraio 2017**.

A tal fine dichiara:

- di aver scelto di partecipare alla sezione del *Certamen* _____;
- di avere preso visione del bando e di accettarlo integralmente;
- di avere riportato in latino e in greco, nella pagella dell'a.s. 2015-2016, una votazione pari o superiore a otto;
- di autorizzare la pubblicazione a titolo gratuito del materiale che produrrà nell'ambito del *certamen* e dei dati personali qui contenuti;

_____ lì _____

Firma dell'alunno/a _____

Firma di un genitore per autorizzazione _____