

Ohio Competitive Certamen Teams – A Message from Larry Dean

This will be my 16th year as the OH Certamen Coach.

- ⇒ OH has had some incredible students whose teams have earned national awards! The OH teams have placed 3rd 2 times, 2nd 10 times (Eheu!), and won the National Championship 6 times (Euge!).
- ⇒ It is a real thrill for the students to compete for a national title. They work hard, learn sportsmanship, forge lasting friendships, meet new friends, and - of course! - improve their Latin skills!
- ⇒ Here is a good article about the Virginia certamen team in 2007: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/04/AR2007120401556.html?sid=ST2007120701139>.

Here is the process for tryouts:

There are many opportunities at Nationals to meet and compete with students from around the country. One such opportunity is the Competitive Certamen. Each year, states in attendance at convention have the chance to send three teams to compete at the Novice (Latin 1/2 and I), Lower (Latin II), and Upper (Latin III and above) Levels, with one team per level and 4 players per team.

In order to create the best team for each level in the fairest way possible, there will be tryouts in May and June for all Ohio delegates interested in playing in the Competitive Certamen. Tryouts will consist of 30-40 toss-up questions in each category (see below). Because the students who try out for the OH team may be from different parts of the state, questions will be asked individually to each student by me or the local sponsor. A comparison of the accuracy of the answers and the speed of the buzzing will then be used to select the 4 spots for each level.

For each level, students can try out for various positions.

On the Novice and Lower Level teams, the positions are: 1 spot in Language Skills (grammar, vocabulary, derivatives, etc); 1 spot in Mythology; 1 spot in History/Culture; and 1 spot in All-Around.

The same positions are open for Upper Level, except the All-Around spot is replaced by a Language Skills/Literature spot. The Upper Level tryout will include bonus questions, with toss-ups worth 10 pts and bonuses worth 5 pts.

Students may try out for as many positions in their level as they wish.

If you have any questions about the Competitive Certamen (such as the different categories or types of knowledge at each level or the official study materials), please go to: <http://dev.etclassics.org/index.php/2-uncategorised/85-competitive-certamen>.

**I may decide to extend 'a special exemption' to players of exceptional quality which would automatically place him/her on the team. These exemptions will be rare and may not occur at every level.

You can email me at dean_l@summitcds.org or call my cell at 513-502-0108 if you need more information.

Nōtā Bene:

I am again running a summer Latin program in Cincinnati for 18 days, Mon June 8 – Wed July 1, 8:30-12:30.

It is intended for motivated students, regardless of their level of Latin – from beginners in the 6th grade to advanced scholars who have graduated. Students can sign up/show up anytime. It is a great learning environment, with motivated students from throughout the Cincinnati area and even from other parts of OH – and they all have the same joy of learning and love of the classics. Here is the link to the program from the Summit webpage: <http://www.summitcds.org/summerprograms/academic-summer-school.cfm>.

Please call me at 513-502-0108 if you have questions.

Grātiās! Larry Dean