

CERTAMEN IN CONCORDIAM EUROPAE REGIONUM OMNIUM

CONCOURS EUROPEEN CICERO EUROPEAN CICERO COMPETITION CONCURSO EUROPEO CICERO CONCORSO EUROPEO "CICERO"



LANGUAGE TEST

U6 students should attempt the whole test and L6 omit the first and final sections.

Seneca was a Stoic philosopher who was also the Emperor Nero's tutor and adviser. This meant that he sometimes had to explain away any contradiction between his philosophy and his lavish lifestyle.

A comparison between private estates and the rest of the world

L6 : omit this section.

non potest ante contemnere porticus, et lacunaria ebore fulgentia, et tonsas silvas, et derivata in domos flumina, quam totum circumeat mundum, et terrarum orbem superne despiciens angustum, et magna ex parte opertum mari - etiam qua exstat, late squalidum - et aut ustum aut rigentem. sibi ipse ait: "hoc est illud punctum quod inter tot gentes ferro et igni dividitur?"

lacunar - aris (n) - a panelled ceiling mari is ablative punctum -i (n) a point, dot, tiny speck (of land)
despiciens – just as in English, this verb can mean literally to look down on and also to despise: you must choose!

A reflection on the way in which nations divide up the world and a sarcastic comparison with ants!

o quam ridiculi sunt mortalium termini! ultra Istrum Dacus non exeat: Strymo Thracas includat: Parthis obstet Euphrates: Danubius Sarmatica ac Romana disterminet: Rhenus Germaniae terminum faciat: Pyrenaeus medium inter Gallias et Hispanias iugum extollat: inter Aegyptum et Aethiopias arenarum inculta vastitas iaceat! si quis formicis det intellectum hominis, nonne et illae unam aream in multas provincias dividunt? si te in caelum sustuleris, orbem despiciens; quotiens videbis exercitus subrectis ire vexillis et quasi magnum aliquid agatur, equitem modo ulteriora explorantem, modo a lateribus effusum, libebit dicere: "it nigrum per campos agmen": formicarum iste discursus est, in angusto laborantium.

quid illis et nobis interest, nisi exigui mensura corpusculi? punctum est istud in quo navigatis, in quo bellatis, in quo regna disponitis: minima, etiam cum utrimque Oceanus illis occurreret.

Rivers: the Ister, the Strymon, the Euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine.

Other words with capital letters are e.g. countries, nationalities, mountain ranges. Don't worry about spellings – guess and then check later if you have time.

punctum -i (n) a tiny speck (of land)

despiciens – just as in English, this verb can mean literally to look down on and also to despise: you must choose!

Oceanus – the river of Ocean which was thought to surround the whole world.

What is really important.

L6 : omit this section.

sursum ingentia spatia sunt, in quorum possessionem animus admittitur.

(sursum = above, on high)

Explain Seneca's train of thought in your own words (a few sentences). **L6 and U6**