

Druides a bello abesse consuerunt neque tributa una cum reliquis pendunt; militiae vacationem omniumque rerum habent immunitatem. Tantis excitati praemiis et suā sponte multi in disciplinam conveniunt et a parentibus propinquisque mittuntur. Magnum ibi numerum versuum ediscere dicuntur. Itaque annos nonnulli vicens in disciplinā permanent. Neque fas esse existimant ea litteris mandare, cum in reliquis fere rebus, publicis privatisque rationibus Graecis litteris utantur. Id mihi duabus de causis instituisse videntur, quod neque in vulgum disciplinam efferri velint neque eos, qui discunt, litteris confisos minus memoriae studere: quod fere plerisque accidit, ut praesidio litterarum diligentiam in perdiscendo ac memoriam remittant. In primis hoc volunt persuadere, non interire animas, sed ab aliis post mortem transire ad alios, atque hoc maxime ad virtutem excitari putant metu mortis neglecto. Multa praeterea de sideribus atque eorum motu, de mundi ac terrarum magnitudine, de rerum naturā, de deorum immortalium vi ac potestate disputant et iuventuti tradunt.

absum, abesse, afui – be absent, be away, take no part in (the prep. a/ab is often repeated with the thing that one is absent from)

consuesco, consuescere, consuevi, consuetum – be accustomed, be in the habit

neque – nor, and...not

tributum, -i tax

pendo, pendere, pependi, pensum – pay

cum reliquis - with the rest (i.e the rest of the members of society who do pay taxes)

vacatio, vacationis – exemption

militia, militiae – military service

immunitas, immunitatis – freedom from, immunity from, exemption from

omnium rerum – of all matters (rerum – refers to all public duties)

tantus, tanta, tantum – such great

praemium, praemii - rewards

excito, excitare, excitavi, excitatum – inspire, spur on, excite, stir up

suā sponte – of their own accord

convenio, convenire, conventum – enter, come to, gather, convene

propinquus, -a, -um – relative; near, neighboring

ibi – in that place, there

versus, versūs – verses

edisco, ediscere, edidici – learn by heart

nonnulli, -ae, -a – some

annos...vicens – accusative of time

vicens – twenty

permaneo, -manere, -mansi, -mansum – stay

disciplina, -ae – practice, discipline, teaching

fas – right, correct, in accordance with the law

existimo, existimare, existimavi, existimatum – think, consider

mando, mandare, mandavi, mandatum – entrust, commit; command

ea- refers to the things – “these things”

litterae, litterarum – litteris – dative with mandare – letter, writing
cum...utantur – concessive cum clause – although
utor, uti, usus sum, usus – use (takes ablative)
fere – nearly
reliquus, -a, um – the rest of the remaining
ratio, rationis – transactions, matters (the Gauls used the Greek alphabet to represent their own language. Eventually they adopt the Roman alphabet)
id – this practice (d.o. of instituisse)
mihi ... videntur – they seem to me (videre in the passive means – seem)
duobus de causis – for two reasons (de – in accordance with, concerning)
quod – because
vulgus, -i – the common people
effero, efferre, extuli, elatum – make known; carry away; raise; elate efferi – present passive infinitive (review the infinitive forms)
velint – subjunctive of volunt (Caesar uses the subjunctive because he is representing someone else's thoughts)
eos...studere – understand the velint with this clause too
confido, confidere, confisi, confisum – rely on - litteris confisos – having relied upon written text
minus memoriae studere – to devote [themselves] less to memorizing
quod– because
fere – in general
accidit ut – it happens... that
plerisque – to many [people]
praesidio litterarum – with the help of letters [writing], by means of the assistance of writing
diligentiam in perdiscendo – their diligence in memorizing
ac - and
memoria, memoriae - memory
in primis – among first [principles] (i.e. one of the main things they teach)
hoc – direct object of persuadere
non interire animas – indirect statement [that] spirits do not perish
ab aliis ...ad alios – from some [people] to other [people]
transeo, transire – cross over, migrate
post mortem – after death
atque – and
hoc – ablative of means by this [idea]
maxime – especially
excitari [eos] – they are stirred
puto, putare – think
virtus, virtutis – courage
metus, metūs – fear
mors, mortis – death metu ...neglecto – ablative absolute – when fear of death is disregarded
neglego, neglegere, neglexi, neglect – not heed, ignore, disregard, neglect
multa – neuter plural – many things
praeterea – in addition
sidus, sideris – star

motus, motūs – motion

mundus, mundi – the world, the universe

magnitudo, magnitudinis – size

vi – from vis, vis – power

potestas, potestatis – might, authority, control, sway

disputo, disputare, disputavi, disputatum – discuss, debate

iuventus, iuventutis – the young