Section I)

Question 2)

a)

i)

Catullus addresses the 'patrona virgo' because he wishes the deity responsible for poets to extend this patronage to him and ensure the longevity of his works.

ii)

Catullus suggests Nepos' work is grander than his own by using interjectory exclamation – 'doctis, Iuppiter, et laboriosis!', flattering description – 'cum ausus es unus Italorum...', and apparent criticism of his own work - 'meas nugas'. All these devices suggest, at first glance, that Catullus is praising Nepos as his superior.

iii)

Catullus' Liberal use of irony is designed to achieve one end – endear the book to the reader (as poem one is the preface), and Catullus achieves this through

emphasizing the difference between the works of Cornelius and himself primarily through use of ironic technique. He states that only Cornelius dared 'Italorum omne aevum tribus cartis explicare', the irrelevent inclusion of the number of volumes hinting at the insincerity of Catullus' praise. This is explicit in the next line – 'doctis, Iuppiter, et laboriosus!', the selection of 'laboriosus' hinting strongly at the experience of the reader, not the author, thus insulting Cornelius. The dichotomy between 'lepidum novum libellum' and 'meas nugas' further suggests that Catullus is not at all sincere in criticising his own works in favor of those of Cornelius. Further, the appeal to the 'patrona virgo' at the end of the poem hints that Catullus believes that his 'nugas' works will – ironically – outlast Cornelius 'doctis... et laboriosis' works of history, which they have.

b)

Catullus' uses selection of vocabulary, sentence structure, and sound effects to convey his attitude toward Alfenus.

The vocabulary chosen to describe Alfenus – 'immemor', 'false', 'dure', 'perfide', 'inique', etc, is highly evocative and has strong negative emotional associations. This directly conveys Catullus' feelings toward Alfenus, while the vocabulary used to describe himself – 'tui dulcis amiculi', 'me meserum', etc, evokes

sympathy from the reader for Catullus, indirectly assisting his portrayal of Alfenus as 'false', 'dure', etc.

Sentence structure is used to enhance the impact of the selection of vocabulary. By placing the vocatives 'dure', 'dic', 'inique', etc in the middle of clauses such as 'iam te nil miseret tui dulcis amiculi', Catullus creates a sense of spontaneity and evokes the sound of sobbing, thus increasing our empathy with Catullus and his depiction of Alfenus. The repeated rhetorical questions at the beginning of the poem – 'Alfene... amiculi?, 'Iam... perfide?' and 'Eheu... fidem?' add to the emotional tone, increasing the effectiveness of the portrayal.

Sound effect created through careful use of language, such as alliteraion to create a murmering 'm' sound – 'me miserum', adds to the sense that Catullus is sobbing, increasing our sympathy. Use of harsh 'p', 'f' and 'd' sounds – 'dubitas fallere, perfide' depict Alfenus' character indirectly.