

A2 Latin Unseen Prose (Aulus Hirtius) Past Paper: 2005 (Caesar battles the Alexandrians with his naval fleet)

Section B: Language and Comprehension

Study the following passage carefully and answer the questions which follow. Give a translation only if one is asked for, or if you think it makes your answer clearer.

A confrontation between Caesar's naval forces and the Alexandrians starts with a clash between a small number of ships but rapidly develops into a large, spectacular battle near the harbour of Alexandria.

Rhodiis¹ navibus praeerat Euphranor², animi magnitudine ac virtute magis cum nostris hominibus quam cum Graecis comparandus. hic ob notissimam scientiam atque fortitudinem delectus est ab Rhodiis¹ qui imperium classis obtineret. qui ubi dubitare Caesarem animadvertit, "videris mihi," inquit, "Caesar, vereri, si haec vada³ primis navibus intraveris, ne prius pugnare cogaris quam reliquam classem potueris explicare⁴. nobis rem committe; nos proelium sustinebimus – neque tuum iudicium fallemus – dum reliqui subsequantur. hos quidem diutius in nostro conspectu gloriari⁵ magno nobis et dedecori et dolori est." 5

Caesar illum adhortatus atque omnibus laudibus prosecutus⁶ dat signum pugnae. progressas ultra vada³ quattuor Rhodias¹ naves circumstant Alexandrini⁷ atque in eas impetum faciunt. sustinent illi atque arte ingenioque se explicant⁴; ac tantum doctrina⁸ potuit ut in dispari numero nullius remi⁹ frangerentur, sed semper venientibus adversae occurrerent. interim sunt reliquae subsecutae. 10

neque vero Alexandriae¹⁰ fuit quisquam aut nostrorum aut oppidanorum quin altissima tecta peteret atque ex omni prospectu locum spectaculo caperet precibusque et votis victoriam suis ab dis immortalibus exposceret. 15

Aulus Hirtius *The Alexandrian War* 15 (adapted)

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|---|---|
| ¹ <i>Rhodius, -a, -um</i> | of Rhodes (island allied to Caesar) |
| ² <i>Euphranor, -oris (m)</i> | Euphranor (a Rhodian, an ally of Caesar) |
| ³ <i>vadum, -i (n)</i> | shallow, shoal |
| ⁴ <i>explico, -are</i> | I deploy, draw up (in battle formation) |
| ⁵ <i>glorior, -ari</i> | I brag, show off |
| ⁶ <i>prosequor, -sequi, -secutus sum</i> | I honour |
| ⁷ <i>Alexandrinus, -i (m)</i> | an Alexandrian (enemy of Caesar) |
| ⁸ <i>doctrina, -ae (f)</i> | skill |
| ⁹ <i>remus, -i (m)</i> | oar |
| ¹⁰ <i>Alexandrea, -ae (f)</i> | Alexandria, city in Egypt (hostile to Caesar) |

