

A2 Latin Unseen Prose (Livy) Past Paper: 2003 (The Romans are confused by fog, when fighting the Histrians)

- 1 Translate the following passage into English. Write your translation on alternate lines.

The Histrians attack two outposts of the Roman camp on a foggy morning. Confused by the fog, the Romans overestimate the number of the enemy and flee in panic towards the sea, leaving the camp an easy prize for the Histrians.

As the fog began to clear away before the first warmth of the sun, the still uncertain light made everything appear to the observer larger than it was; thus it deceived the Romans into believing that the enemy army was much larger than it was.

quo territi utriusque stationis¹ milites cum in castra ingenti tumultu confugissent, ibi plus terroris fecerunt quam quod secum ipsi attulerant. nam neque dicere quid fugissent nec percunctantibus² reddere responsum poterant; et clamor in portis, ubi nulla erat statio¹ quae sustineret impetum, audiebatur; et concursatio³ in obscuro incidentium⁴ aliorum in alios incertum fecerat an hostis intra vallum esset. una vox audiebatur ad mare vocantium. itaque primo, velut iussi id facere, pauci, armati alii, maior pars inermes, ad mare decurrunt, dein plures, postremo prope omnes, et ipse consul, cum frustra revocare fugientes conatus nec imperio nec auctoritate nec precibus ad extremum valuisset⁵. unus remansit M. Licinius Strabo, tribunus militum tertiae legionis, cum tribus signis⁶ ab legione sua relictus. hunc Histri, in vacua castra impetu facto, cum nemo alius armatus iis obviam isset, in praetorio⁷ instrumentem atque adhortantem suos oppresserunt.

LIVY XLI,II

¹statio, -onis f.

²percunctor, percunctari, percunctatus sum

³concursatio, -onis f.

⁴incido, incidere, incidi + in + acc.

⁵valeo, valere, valui

⁶signum, -i n.

⁷praetorium, -i n.

outpost

I question

the rushing about

(here) I collide with

I am successful

(here) company (of troops)

headquarters building

[45]

