

## A2 Latin Unseen Prose (Tacitus) Past Paper: 2009 (Claudius is encouraged to choose another wife, after the execution of Messalina)

Answer Section A and one question from Section B.

### Section A

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

*The emperor Claudius is urged to undertake an incestuous marriage after the execution of his third wife, Messalina.*

The imperial household was shaken by the execution of Messalina. There was rivalry among the freedmen over which of them should choose a new wife for the emperor, who was always more manageable under the influence of a wife.

multae etiam nobiles feminae imperatorem orabant ut se in matrimonium<sup>1</sup> duceret. inter eas Agrippina, filia Germanici, maxime idonea videbatur: promisit se, quae iam mater fuisset, mox Claudio quoque filium daturam esse. quamquam brevi tempore Agrippina cum imperatore habitabat sicut uxor, nondum ausi erant nuptias celebrare,<sup>2</sup> quod Germanicus fuerat frater Claudii. multi erant qui crederent, si incestum<sup>3</sup> eius modi fecissent, cladem diram civitati incasuram esse. Vitellius igitur, qui amicus imperatoris erat, in senatum ingressus senatores hortatus est ut matrimonium<sup>1</sup> probarent.<sup>4</sup> 'nonne', inquit, 'deceat<sup>5</sup> imperatorem, qui semper pro populo Romano tam diligenter laborat, solacium<sup>6</sup> coniugis habere?' cum senatores haec verba laudavissent, Vitellius eos rogavit quis aut nobilioris generis aut melioris ingenii esset quam Agrippina. eis respondentibus nullam feminam meliorem esse, negavit tale matrimonium,<sup>1</sup> quod aliis gentibus sollemne<sup>7</sup> esset, ulla lege prohibitum esse.<sup>8</sup> quibus verbis senatores adeo incitati sunt ut statim poposcerint ne diutius morarentur.

Based on Tacitus, *Annals* XII.1–7

#### Names

<i>Agrippina</i> , -ae (f)	Agrippina
<i>Germanicus</i> , -i (m)	Germanicus
<i>Claudius</i> , -i (m)	Claudius
<i>Vitellius</i> , -i (m)	Vitellius

#### Words

<sup>1</sup> <i>matrimonium</i> , -i (n)	marriage
<sup>2</sup> <i>nuptias celebro</i> , -are	I hold a wedding celebration
<sup>3</sup> <i>incestum</i> , -i (n)	incest
<sup>4</sup> <i>probo</i> , -are	I approve
<sup>5</sup> <i>deceat</i> (impersonal)	it is appropriate, right (+ acc. + infinitive)
<sup>6</sup> <i>solacium</i> , -i (n)	comfort
<sup>7</sup> <i>sollemnis</i> , -e	common
<sup>8</sup> <i>prohibeo</i> , -ere	I prohibit, ban

[Total: 70 marks]

