

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 1992 (Ulysses' claim for the arms of Achilles)

- 2 In a debate between himself and Ajax as to who should be awarded the arms of Achilles, Ulysses reminds Menelaus of how invaluable he has been to the Greeks in the Trojan War, citing his embassy to Troy and his particular usefulness in siege warfare.

Before the war, when the sacrifice of Agamemnon's daughter was required to obtain a wind from Greece, I was the one who persuaded the reluctant father to consider the interests of the state. Then I was sent to the girls' mother, not to persuade her, but to trick her into agreement by cunning. If you, Ajax, had been entrusted with such a mission, we should still be waiting for a wind now!

mittor et Iliacas audax orator ad arces
visaque et intrata est altae mihi curia¹ Troiae—
plenaque adhuc erat illa viris. interritus egi
quam mihi mandarat communem Graecia causam,
accusoque Parin² praedamque Helenamque reposco
et moveo Priamum Priamoque Antenora² iunctum.
at Paris et fratres et qui rapuere³ sub illo
vix tenuere manus—scis hoc, Menelae—nefandas,
primaque lux⁴ nostri tecum fuit illa pericli.
longa referre mora est quae consilioque manuque
utiliter feci spatiosi⁵ tempore belli.
post acies primas, urbis se moenibus hostes
continuere diu, nec aperti copia Martis
ulla fuit: decimo demum pugnavimus anno.
quid facis interea, qui nil nisi proelia nosti?
quis tuus usus erat? nam si mea facta requiris,
hostibus insidior, fossa munimina cingo, 17
consolor socios, ut longi taedia belli
mente ferant placida; doceo quo simus alendi⁶ 19
armandique modo; mittor quo postulat usus.⁷

OVID: *Metamorphoses* XIII 196 ff.

¹ *curia* f. = senate-house, council chamber

² *Parin* and *Antenora* are both accusative

³ with *rapuere* understand *Helenam*

⁴ *lux* f. (here) = day

⁵ *spatiosus* = long

⁶ *alere* = to nourish, feed

⁷ *usus* m. (here) = need

Write out and scan lines 17 (hostibus ... cingo) and 19 (mente ... alendi).

[30]

