

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2001 (Dido's Lament)

- 2 (a) Translate the following passage into English. Write your translation on alternate lines.

Dido, Queen of Carthage, laments the fact that she has been abandoned by her lover Aeneas, the son of Venus, whom she welcomed into her city after he had been wandering the seas for seven years. Imagining herself pregnant by Aeneas (they had sought shelter from a storm together), she anticipates the deaths of herself and the child. She rejects his argument that he was forced to leave by a god.

You are false in everything and indeed your tongue did not begin its deception with me, nor am I the first to suffer at your hands: the mother of your son perished, abandoned by her cruel husband.

nec mihi mens dubia est, quin te tua numina¹ damnent:
 per mare, per terras septima iactat hiems.
 fluctibus eiectum tuta statione² recepi
 vixque bene audito nomine regna dedi.
 his tamen officiis utinam contenta fuisset,
 et mihi concubitus³ fama sepulta foret⁴!
 illa dies nocuit, qua nos declive⁵ sub antrum
 caeruleus subitis compulit imber aquis.
 forsitan et gravidam⁶ Didon⁷, scelerate, relinquant, 9
 parsque tui lateat corpore clausa meo.
 accedet⁸ fati matris miserabilis infans,
 et nondum nato funeris auctor eris,
 cumque parente sua frater morietur Iuli⁹
 poenaeque conexos¹⁰ auferet una duos. 14
 'sed iubet ire deus.' vellem vetuisset adire,
 Punica¹¹ nec Teucris¹² pressa fuisset humus!
 hoc duce nempe¹³ deo ventis agitaris iniquis
 et teris¹⁴ in rapido tempora longa freto?

OVID: *Heroides* VII, 87ff (with omissions)

¹numen, numinis n.

god, spirit

²statio, stationis f.

anchorage, harbour

³concubitus -us m.

sexual relationship, intercourse

⁴foret = esset

⁵declivis, -e

sloping, deep

⁶gravidus, -a, -um

pregnant

⁷Didon is accusative

⁸accedo, accedere, accessi, accessus +dat.

I am added to

⁹Iulus, -i m.

Iulus (Aeneas' son)

¹⁰conexus, -a, -um

(joined) together

¹¹Punicus, -a, -um

Punic, Carthaginian

¹²Teucris, -orum m. pl.

Trojans

¹³nempe

of course, I suppose

¹⁴tero, terere, trivi, tritus

I spend, waste

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- (b) Write out and scan lines 9 and 14 of the above passage.

[2]

