

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2007 (Battus and the cattle of Mercury)

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

Battus is asked by Mercury to keep quiet about the hiding place of some cattle he (Mercury) has stolen. He at first complies, but then breaks his promise and is punished.

Some cattle strayed unwatched into the open fields. Mercury saw them and drove them by cunning into some woods in the mountains, where he hid them. No one had noticed this theft except an old man known in the neighbourhood as Battus. Mercury went up to him and tried to bribe him to keep quiet.

'quisquis es, hospes,' ait, 'si forte armenta requiret
 haec aliquis, vidisse nega; neu¹ gratia facto
 nulla rependatur,² nitidam³ cape praemia vaccam!
 et dedit. accepta voces has reddidit hospes: 4
 'tutus eas! lapis iste prius tua furta loquetur,
 et lapidem ostendit. simulat love⁴ natus abire;
 mox redit et versa pariter cum voce figura 7
 'rustice, vidisti si quas hoc limite,⁵ dixit,
 'ire boves, fer opem furtoque silentia deme!⁶
 iuncta suo pretium dabitur tibi femina⁷ tauro.'
 at senior, postquam est merces geminata,⁸ 'sub illis
 montibus,' inquit, 'erunt,' et erant sub montibus illis.
 risit Atlantiades⁹ et 'me mihi, perfide, prodis?
 me mihi prodis?' ait periuraque pectora vertit
 in durum silicem.

Ovid *Metamorphoses* II.692-706

¹ *neu*

² *rependo, rependere, rependi, repensus*

³ *nitidus, -a, -um*

⁴ *Iuppiter, Iovis m.*

⁵ *limes, -itis m.*

⁶ *silentia demo, demere, dempsi, demptus*

⁷ *femina, -ae f.*

⁸ *gemino, geminare, geminavi, geminatus*

⁹ *Atlantiades, -is m.*

= *et ne*

I give in return, give as a reward, pay

sleek, good-looking

Jupiter

path, track, road

I remove the silence (from), i.e. I disclose

(here) female

I double

grandson of Atlas, i.e. Mercury

[41]

(b) Scan lines 4 and 7.

[4]

