

## A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2015 (The slaughter of Niobe's children)

*The mortal Niobe, who thinks herself superior to the goddess Latona, is punished by her: after killing all Niobe's sons and her husband, the goddess shoots her three daughters one by one; Niobe, at first defiant, is finally left paralysed by grief.*

The last son vainly stretched out his arms in prayer, but fell smitten by a wound to the heart. The grief of the people made Niobe aware of the terrible events.

corporibus gelidis incumbit<sup>1</sup> et ordine nullo  
 oscula dispensat natos suprema per omnes.  
 'pascere,<sup>2</sup> crudelis, nostro, Latona, dolore!'  
 dixerat: insonuit contento<sup>3</sup> nervus<sup>4</sup> ab arcu;  
 qui, praeter Nioben unam, conterruit omnes: 5  
 illa malo est audax. stabant cum vestibus atris  
 ante toros<sup>5</sup> fratrum demisso crine sorores;  
 e quibus una trahens haerentia viscere<sup>6</sup> tela  
 imposito fratri moribunda relanguit<sup>7</sup> ore;  
 altera solari miseram conata parentem 10  
 conticuit subito duplicataque<sup>8</sup> vulnere caeco est. 11  
 ultima restabat; quam toto corpore mater  
 tota veste tegens, 'unam minimamque relinque!  
 de multis minimam posco' clamavit 'et unam.'  
 dumque rogat, pro qua rogat occidit: orba<sup>9</sup> resedit 15  
 exanimes inter natos natasque virumque  
 deriguitque malis; nullos movet aura capillos.

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* VI, 277ff.

### Names

<i>Latona</i> , -ae (f)	Latona
<i>Niobe</i> , -es (acc. -en) (f)	Niobe

### Words

<sup>1</sup> <i>incumbo</i> , -ere, -cubui, -cubitus (+ dat.)	I throw myself upon
<sup>2</sup> <i>pascor</i> , -i, <i>pastus sum</i> (+ abl.)	I feast upon
<sup>3</sup> <i>contentus</i> , -a, -um	taut
<sup>4</sup> <i>nervus</i> , -i (m)	string (of a bow)
<sup>5</sup> <i>torus</i> , -i (m)	funeral bier
<sup>6</sup> <i>viscus</i> , -eris (n)	flesh
<sup>7</sup> <i>relanguesco</i> , -ere, <i>relangui</i>	I sink down
<sup>8</sup> <i>duplico</i> , -are, -avi, -atus	I double up
<sup>9</sup> <i>orbus</i> , -a, -um	childless

- 2 (a) Translate Passage 2 into English. [45]

Please write your translation on alternate lines.

- (b) Write out and scan lines 10–11 from Passage 2.

*altera solari miseram conata parentem  
 conticuit subito duplicataque<sup>8</sup> vulnere caeco est.*

[5]

