

## A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2017 (Medea's brutal scheme)

### Unprepared Translation and Comprehension

- 1 Read the passage and answer **all** the questions.

*Medea has fled by sea from her home town of Colchis with the Argonauts and her young brother. When they stop at an island, she discovers that her father is following them. The Argonauts hastily prepare to set sail again and Medea uses her brother in a shocking way to slow her father down.*

Heartless Medea, in flight from the father she had deserted, had put in to shore in these waters, so the story goes. When the look-out from a hill-top saw her pursuer, he told her: 'A stranger is approaching from Colchis – I recognise the sails!'

dum trepidant Minyae, dum solvitur aggere<sup>1</sup> funis<sup>2</sup>,  
dum sequitur celeres ancora<sup>3</sup> tracta manus,  
conscia percussit meritorum<sup>4</sup> pectora Colchis  
ausa atque ausura multa nefanda<sup>5</sup> manu;  
et, quamquam superest ingens audacia menti, 5  
pallor in attonitae virginis ore fuit.  
ergo ubi prospexit venientia vela<sup>6</sup> 'tenemur,  
et pater est aliqua fraude morandus' ait.  
dum quid agat quaerit, dum versat in omnia vultus,  
ad fratrem casu<sup>7</sup> lumina flexa<sup>8</sup> tulit. 10  
cuius ut oblata est praesentia<sup>9</sup>, 'vicimus' inquit:  
'hic mihi morte sua causa salutis erit.'  
protinus ignari nec quicquam tale timentis  
innocuum rigido perforat<sup>10</sup> ense latus,  
atque ita divellit<sup>11</sup> divulsaque<sup>11</sup> membra per agros 15  
dissipat<sup>12</sup> in multis invenienda locis.  
neu pater ignoret, scopulo<sup>13</sup> proponit in alto  
pallentesque<sup>14</sup> manus sanguineumque caput,  
ut genitor luctuque novo tardetur<sup>15</sup> et, artus  
dum legit<sup>16</sup> extinctos, triste moretur iter. 20

Ovid, *Tristia* 3.9.13–32

#### Names

*Minyae*, -arum (m)  
*Colchis*, -idis (f)

the Argonauts  
the woman from Colchis, i.e. Medea

