

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2018 (Cyparissus & the Stag)

- 2 (a) Translate the following passage into English. Please write your translation on alternate lines. [45]

Ovid explains how the cypress tree became a symbol of mourning. A tame stag was once befriended by a boy called Cyparissus. One day the boy accidentally shot it and in his sorrow asked the gods to let him mourn forever. Apollo took pity by turning him into a cypress tree. In this way the cypress became a place for people to mourn ever after.

There was a mighty stag, sacred to the nymphs who live on the plains. Free from fear and putting aside any shyness it came to men's homes and let even strangers stroke its neck.

sed tamen ante alios, Cerae pulcherrime gentis,
gratus erat, Cyparisse, tibi: tu pabula cervum
ad nova, tu liquidi ducebas fontis ad undam,
tu modo texebas varios per cornua flores.
aestus erat mediusque dies, solisque vapore 5
fessus in herbosa posuit sua corpora terra
cervus et arborea frigus ducebat ab umbra.
hunc puer imprudens iaculo Cyparissus acuto
fixit et, ut saevo morientem vulnere vidit,
velle mori statuit. quae non solacia Phoebus 10
dixit? ut hunc leviter pro materiaque doleret
admonuit! gemit ille tamen munusque supremum
hoc petit a superis, ut tempore lugeat omni,
iamque per immensos egesto sanguine fletus
in viridem verti coeperunt membra colorem. 15
ingemuit tristisque deus lugebere nobis
lugebisque alios aderisque dolentibus' inquit.

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* X.120–142 (with omissions)

Names

<i>Ceas</i> , -a, -um	Ceas (from the island of Ceos)
<i>Cyparissus</i> , -i (m)	Cyparissus
<i>Phoebus</i> , -i (m)	Apollo

Words

<i>pabulum</i> , -i (n)	pasture, feeding place
<i>cervus</i> , -i (m)	stag
<i>texo</i> , -ere	I weave
<i>aestus</i> , -us (m)	heat
<i>vapor</i> , -oris (m)	warmth
<i>iaculum</i> , -i (n)	javelin
<i>solacium</i> , -i (n)	comfort, consolation
<i>pro materia</i>	in proportion to the cause, moderately
<i>lugeo</i> , -ere	I mourn
<i>egero</i> , -ere, -gessi, -gestus	I pour out
<i>viridis</i> , -e	green



Scan Lines: 10-11

