

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2018 (Ovid relays his visit from Cupid)

- 1 Read the passage and answer all the questions.

Ovid, who has been exiled from Rome by the emperor, describes how Cupid appeared to him in the night. Ovid spoke harshly to Cupid (it was Ovid's love poetry that had caused his exile). In reply, Cupid assured him that a more favourable situation in Rome now meant that his prayers for a return from exile were more likely to be successful.

If you have a little time to spare for your friend in exile,
Maximus, star of the Fabian race, listen
while I tell you about my vision, whether it was the shadow of a body,
the appearance of reality, or just a dream.

nox erat et bifores¹ intrabat luna fenestras,
mense fere medio quanta nitere² solet,
cum subito pennis³ agitatus inhorruit aer⁴
et gemuit parvo mota fenestra sono.
territus in cubitum⁵ relevo mea membra sinistrum, 5
pulsus et e trepido pectore somnus abit.
stabat Amor, vultu non quo prius esse solebat,
nec bene dispositas comptus⁶ ut ante comas.
horrida pendebant molles super ora capilli
et visa est oculis horrida penna⁷ meis. 10
hunc simul agnovi (neque enim mihi notior alter)
talibus adfata est libera lingua sonis:
'quae tibi causa viae, nisi uti mala nostra videres,
quae sunt, si nescis, invidiosa⁷ tibi?'
haec ego visus eram puero dixisse volucris, 15
hos visus nobis ille dedisse sonos:
'pone, precor, curas; mitescet⁸ Caesaris ira
et veniet votis mollior aura tuis.
neve moram timeas: tempus quod quaerimus instat,
cunctaque laetitia plena triumphus⁹ facit. 20
dum sibi gratatur¹⁰ populus, totamque per urbem
omnis odoratis¹¹ ignibus ara calet¹²,
dum faciles aditus praebet venerabile templum,
sperandum est nostras posse valere¹³ preces.'

Ovid, *Ex Ponto* 3.3.5–92 (edited)



Names

Amor, -oris (m)
Caesar, -aris (m)

Love (= Cupid)
Caesar (= the emperor Augustus)

Words

¹ <i>biforis, -e</i>	double-shuttered
² <i>niteo, -ere</i>	I shine
³ <i>penna, -ae</i> (f)	wing
⁴ <i>aer, aeris</i> (m)	the air
⁵ <i>cubitus, -i</i> (n)	elbow
⁶ <i>como, -ere, compsi, comptus</i>	I comb, arrange hair
⁷ <i>invidiosus, -a, -um</i>	reflecting badly on
⁸ <i>mitesco, -ere</i>	I grow soft
⁹ <i>triumphus, -i</i> (m)	a triumph (to celebrate a recent military victory)
¹⁰ <i>grator, -ari</i>	I congratulate
¹¹ <i>odoratus, -a, -um</i>	scented, fragrant
¹² <i>caleo, -ere</i>	I am hot
¹³ <i>valeo, valere</i>	(here) I am successful

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