

WJEC

Level 1 Certificate in Latin Literature

For summer 2012 and 2013 only

Prescribed text for Unit 9532
Latin Literature Narratives

Section B

Virgil, *Aeneid* 2, lines 13-62 and 195-267

This is the official examination text for the
WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Literature 2012 and 2013

Aeneid 2.13-62 and 195-267

fracti bello fatisque repulsi
ductores Danaum tot iam labentibus annis
instar montis equum divina Palladis arte
aedificant, sectaque intexunt abiete costas; 15
votum pro reditu simulant; ea fama vagatur.
huc delecta virum sortiti corpora furtim
includunt caeco lateri penitusque cavernas
ingentes uterumque armato milite complent. 20
est in conspectu Tenedos, notissima fama
insula, dives opum Priami dum regna manebant,
nunc tantum sinus et statio male fida carinis:
huc se provecti deserto in litore condunt;
nos abiisse rati et vento petiisse Mycenae. 25
ergo omnis longo solvit se Teucra luctu;
panduntur portae, iuvat ire et Dorica castra
desertosque videre locos litusque relictum:
hic Dolopum manus, hic saevus tendebat Achilles;
classibus hic locus, hic acie certare solebant. 30
pars stupet innuptae donum exitiale Minervae
et molem mirantur equi; primusque Thymoetes
duci intra muros hortatur et arce locari,
sive dolo seu iam Troiae sic fata ferebant.
at Capys, et quorum melior sententia menti, 35
aut pelago Danaum insidias suspectaque dona
praecipitare iubent subiectisque urere flammis,
aut terebrare cavas uteri et temptare latebras.
scinditur incertum studia in contraria vulgus.

There, in the lead, ahead of everyone, with a great crowd following, Laocoon, blazing in anger, ran down from the lofty citadel, and while still far off, he shouted, "Wretched citizens, what is this great insanity? Do you really believe that the enemy has gone away? Or do you think that any gifts from the Greeks are free from treachery? Is this how Ulysses is known to be? Either there are Greeks hiding there, shut inside this wooden structure, or this contraption has been made for use against our walls, to spy on our homes, and fall upon the city from above. Or else some other trick is hidden here. Trojans, do not trust the horse! Whatever it is, I fear Greeks, even when they are bringing gifts." Thus he spoke and he sent spinning, with all his strength, a huge spear into the side of the beast, and into the belly of the horse with its curved frame. It stood there quivering, and when the womb was struck, the hollow caverns within boomed and gave out a groan. And if the Fates and the minds of the gods had not been turned against us, he would have forced us to tear open with iron the Greeks' hiding places; Troy would now be standing and you, lofty citadel of Priam, would remain. See - meanwhile, with a great clamour, Trojan shepherds were dragging a young man, whose hands were tied behind his back, to the king. He was a man unknown to those who had come upon him and who had given himself up to them so that he might accomplish his very purpose and open up Troy to the Greeks. He was confident in spirit and ready for either outcome, either to spin his tricks or to meet with certain death.

The prisoner, giving his name as Sinon, claims that he ran away from the Greeks because they had picked him to be a human sacrifice to the gods in order to obtain a safe voyage home. He acts his part so well that Priam immediately orders him to be set free. In return, Sinon answers the Trojans' questions about the horse with false information, saying that it is a sacred offering to the goddess Minerva: if they harm it, Troy will be doomed; but if they take it safely into the city, they will be able to invade and conquer Greece.

The tale was believed because of all this trickery and the skill of the lying Sinon; we were conquered by trickery and tears, we whom neither the son of Tydeus, nor Achilles from Larissa, nor ten years of siege, nor one thousand ships had overcome. Now something else, more serious and much more terrible, befell us, miserable wretches, and stirred up our unforeseeing minds. Laocoon, the priest of Neptune chosen by lot, was sacrificing a huge bull at the sacred altars. But see, twin snakes, (I shudder to talk of it) coming from Tenedos across the calm sea, pressed forward on the sea with their immense coils, and made their way side by side towards the shore; their breasts were held high above the waves and their bloody crests towered above the seas; the rest of their bodies skimmed the sea behind them and they arched their huge backs in a coil. A sound came from the foaming salt sea; and now they were on land and, their burning eyes flecked with blood and fire, they were licking their hissing lips with quivering tongues. We grew pale at the sight and fled in all directions. They made straight for Laocoon, with a sure sense of direction; and first of all each serpent wound and coiled itself around the small bodies of his two sons and, biting them, fed on their miserable limbs. Then when he himself came to their aid bearing a sword, they snatched him up and bound him in huge spirals; and now, having wound themselves around his body twice and having set their scaly backs twice around his neck, they towered over him with their heads and necks high above. He, at the same time, tried to pull apart the knots with his hands, his headbands soaked with blood and black venom, and all the time he raised to the stars horrendous cries, just like the bellowing when a wounded bull flees from the altar and has shaken the badly-aimed axe from its neck. But the twin snakes escaped by gliding away to the highest shrines and made for the citadel of the heartless daughter of Triton, and they sheltered beneath the feet of the goddess and under the rim of her shield. Then however a new fear made its way into the trembling hearts of them all: they said that Laocoon had been justly punished for his crime, because he harmed the sacred wood with his spear and hurled his wicked spear into its back. They shouted that the image should be taken to the sanctuary of the goddess and they should offer prayers to her divine authority.

dividimus muros et moenia pandimus urbis. 235
 accingunt omnes operi pedibusque rotarum
 subiciunt lapsus, et stuppea vincula collo
 intendunt; scandit fatalis machina muros
 feta armis. pueri circum innuptaeque puellae
 sacra canunt funemque manu contingere gaudent; 240
 illa subit mediaeque minans inlabitur urbi.
 o patria, o divum domus Ilium et incluta bello
 moenia Dardanidum! quater ipso in limine portae
 substitit atque utero sonitum quater arma dedere;
 instamus tamen immemores caecique furore 245
 et monstrum infelix sacrata sistimus arce.
 tunc etiam fatis aperit Cassandra futuris
 ora dei iussu non umquam credita Teucris.
 nos delubra deum miseri, quibus ultimus esset
 ille dies, festa velamus fronde per urbem. 250
 vertitur interea caelum et ruit Oceano nox
 involvens umbra magna terramque polumque
 Myrmidonumque dolos; fusi per moenia Teucris
 conticuere; sopor fessos complectitur artus.
 et iam Argiva phalanx instructis navibus ibat 255
 a Tenedo tacitae per amica silentia lunae
 litora nota petens, flammam cum regia puppis
 extulerat, fatisque deum defensus iniquis
 inclusos utero Danaos et pinea furtim
 laxat claustra Sinon. illos patefactus ad auras 260
 reddit equus laetique cavo se robore promunt
 Thessandrus Sthenelusque duces et dirus Ulixes,
 demissum lapsi per funem, Acamasque Thoasque
 Pelidesque Neoptolemus primusque Machaon
 et Menelaus et ipse doli fabricator Epeos. 265
 invadunt urbem somno vinoque sepultam;
 caeduntur vigiles, portisque patentibus omnes
 accipiunt socios atque agmina conscia iungunt.