

WJEC

Level 2 Certificate in Latin Literature

For summer 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017

Prescribed text for Unit 9542
Latin Literature Narratives

Section B:

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

This is the official examination text for the
WJEC Level 2 Certificate in Latin Literature

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

In his Metamorphoses, Ovid fitted together into a continuous poem of around 12,000 lines an enormous range of myths and folk-tales, beginning with the creation of the world and ending in Ovid's own day. Almost all the stories it contains involve a change of shape (in Greek, a 'metamorphosis') of one sort or another - humans, for example, being transformed into animals, trees, and even mountains!

The Building of the Labyrinth (*Met.* 8.152-168)

The first passage tells how, Minos, king of Crete, returned from a successful war against Athens to find that, in his absence, his wife Pasiphae had fallen in love with a bull and, as the result of their appalling union, had given birth to the Minotaur. In order to remove this blot on his family, Minos employed the famous inventor Daedalus to construct a building in which the hideous creature could be hidden away.

vota lovi Minos taurorum corpora centum
solvit, ut egressus ratibus Curetida terram
contigit, et spoliis decorata est regia fixis.
creverat opprobrium generis, foedumque patebat 155
matris adulterium monstri novitate biformis;
destinat hunc Minos thalamo remove pudorem
multiplicique domo caecisque includere tectis.
Daedalus ingenio fabrae celeberrimus artis
ponit opus turbatque notas et lumina flexa 160
ducit in errorem variarum ambage viarum.
non secus ac liquidis Phrygiis Maeandrus in undis
ludit et ambiguo lapsu refluitque fluitque
occurrensque sibi venturas aspicit undas
et nunc ad fontes, nunc ad mare versus apertum 165
incertae exercet aquas: ita Daedalus implet
innumeras errore vias, vixque ipse reverti
ad limen potuit: tanta est fallacia tecti.

Daedalus and Icarus (*Met.* 8.183-235)

For many years the Minotaur - fed on the flesh of Athenian youths - remained hidden but secure, until the secret of the labyrinth was penetrated by the young Athenian prince Theseus. Helped by the king's daughter Ariadne, he succeeded in killing the Minotaur and then escaped with her. Daedalus was blamed for all this, and he and his son now became Minos' prisoners.

Daedalus interea, Creten longumque perosus exilium, tactusque loci natalis amore, clausus erat pelago. 'terras licet' inquit 'et undas obstruat, at caelum certe patet; ibimus illac! omnia possideat, non possidet aera Minos.'	185
dixit et ignotas animum dimittit in artes, naturamque novat. nam ponit in ordine pennas, ut clivo crevisse putes; sic rustica quondam fistula disparibus paulatim surgit avenis.	189 191
tum lino medias et ceris adligat imas, atque ita compositas parvo curvamine flectit, ut veras imitetur aves. puer Icarus una stabat et, ignarus sua se tractare pericla, ore renidenti modo, quas vaga moverat aura, captabat plumas, flavam modo pollice ceram mollibat, lusuque suo mirabile patris	195
impediebat opus. postquam manus ultima coepto imposita est, geminas opifex libravit in alas ipse suum corpus motaque pependit in aura. instruit et natum, 'medio'que 'ut limite curras, Icare', ait 'moneo, ne, si demissior ibis, unda gravet pennas, si celsior, ignis adurat.	200 205
inter utrumque vola! nec te spectare Booten aut Helicen iubeo strictumque Orionis ensem: me duce carpe viam!' pariter praecepta volandi trahit et ignotas umeris accommodat alas.	
inter opus monitusque genae maduere seniles, et patriae tremuere manus. dedit oscula nato non iterum repetenda suo, pennisque levatus ante volat comitique timet, velut ales, ab alto quae teneram prolem produxit in aera nido; hortaturque sequi, damnosaeque erudit artes, et movet ipse suas et nati respicit alas.	210 215

hos aliquis tremula dum captat harundine pisces,
 aut pastor baculo stivave innixus arator
 vidit et obstipuit, quique aethera carpere possent
 credidit esse deos. et iam lunonia laeva 220
 parte Samos (fuerant Delosque Parosque relictæ),
 dextra Lebinthos erat fecundaque melle Calymne,
 cum puer audaci coepit gaudere volatu
 deseruitque ducem, caelique cupidine tractus
 altius egit iter. rapidi vicinia solis 225
 mollit odoratas, pennarum vincula, ceras.
 tabuerant cerae; nudos quatit ille lacertos,
 remigioque carens non ullas percipit auras.
 oraque caerulea patrium clamantia nomen
 excipiuntur aqua, quae nomen traxit ab illo. 230
 at pater infelix nec iam pater 'Icare', dixit,
 'Icare', dixit 'ubi es? qua te regione requiram?
 Icare', dicebat; pennas aspexit in undis,
 devovitque suas artes corpusque sepulcro
 condidit, et tellus a nomine dicta sepulti. 235

Pygmalion (Met. 10.243-297)

In this story, Pygmalion is king of Cyprus. Some of the women of this island had become the first to sell their services as prostitutes. Disgusted by their immoral behaviour, Pygmalion made up his mind to have nothing to do with any women.

quas quia Pygmalion aevum per crimen agentes
viderat, offensus vitiis, quae plurima menti
femineae natura dedit, sine coniuge caelebs 245
vivebat thalamique diu consorte carebat.
interea niveum mira feliciter arte
sculpsit ebur formamque dedit, qua femina nasci
nulla potest, operisque sui concepit amorem.
virginis est verae facies, quam vivere credas 250
et, si non obstet reverentia, velle moveri:
ars adeo latet arte sua. miratur et haurit
pectore Pygmalion simulati corporis ignes.
saepe manus operi temptantes admovet, an sit
corpus an illud ebur, nec adhuc ebur esse fatetur. 255
oscula dat reddique putat loquiturque tenetque,
et credit tactis digitos insidere membris,
et metuit pressos veniat ne livor in artus.
et modo blanditias adhibet, modo grata puellis
munera fert illi - conchas teretesque lapillos 260
et parvas volucres et flores mille colorum,
liliaque pictasque pilas et ab arbore lapsas
Heliadum lacrimas. ornat quoque vestibus artus,
dat digitis gemmas, dat longa monilia collo;
aure leves baccae, redimicula pectore pendent. 265
cuncta decent, nec nuda minus formosa videtur.
collocat hanc stratis concha Sidonide tinctis
appellatque tori sociam, adclinataque colla
mollibus in plumis, tamquam sensura, reponit.

