



CSCP Support Materials: Translation

Eduqas GCSE Latin
Component 3A

Ovid: Ceyx and Alcyone

For examination in 2022 - 2023



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Using this Document

Each section of the Latin text is displayed in three columns.

In the left-hand column is the Latin text. Line numbers corresponding to the official examination text are indicated in square brackets.

In the centre column is an accessible interpretation of its English meaning (not a literal translation). The purpose of this is to help students enjoy and engage with the meaning of the poem.

Where the interpretation in the central column is significantly different from a literal translation of the Latin, a literal translation is provided in the right hand column. Where this occurs, the relevant words of the Latin text, English meaning and literal translation are all marked with a dotted line underneath. This (and other annotation described below) is intended to form a bridge for the teacher between the Latin and the English interpretation, and to make it possible for any student who wishes to do so to see how the Latin gives rise to the English meaning.

Please note that students will not be expected to translate a section of text in this examination, although they are expected to show detailed knowledge and comprehension of the text throughout, and that they understand the meaning of any quotations they use.

Where a word in the English meaning column enhances readability, but is not explicitly included in the Latin, it is given in square brackets: [...]. There are also a number of occasions where, in order to make the passage read more naturally in English, Latin verbs in the (historic) present tense have been translated as if they were in a past tense.

N. B. The coloured passages in italics are summaries of events to support understanding of the narrative. They are not part of the prescription.

Ceyx and Alcyone Book 11 415-429, 439-453, 461-468, 478-523, 537-550, 560-569, 710-746

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 (including this one) involve a change of shape (in Greek, a 'metamorphosis') of one sort of another – humans, for example, being transformed into animals, trees, and even mountains!

At the beginning of this story Ceyx, king of Trachis in Greece, is grieving because his brother, Daedalion, has been turned in a hawk by Apollo. He decides to visit an oracle to ask the god for comfort but his wife, Alcyone, being very afraid of this journey tries to persuade him not to go by sea.

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>consilii tamen ante sui, fidissima, certam te facit, Alcyone; cui protinus intima frigus ossa receperunt, buxoque simillimus ora pallor obit, lacrimisque genae maduere profusis.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">A (lines 415-429)</p> <p><i>Before [he left], however, most faithful Alcyone, Ceyx told you of his plan. Immediately a chill took hold of the innermost parts of her bones, and a pallor very like boxwood covered her face, and her cheeks grew wet with streams of tears.</i></p>	<p><u>made you certain</u> <u>for whom her deepest</u> <u>bones received a chill</u></p>
<p>ter conata loqui ter fletibus ora rigavit, singultuque piis interrumpente querellas</p>	[5]	<p><i>Three times she tried to speak, three times her face grew wet with weeping, and with her loving protests interrupted by sobs,</i></p>	<p><u>having tried ... she wetted</u> <u>her face with weeping and</u> <u>with her sobbing</u> <u>interrupting her loving</u> <u>protests</u></p>
<p>“quae mea culpa tuam,” dixit “carissime, mentem vertit? ubi est quae cura mei prior esse solebat?</p>		<p><i>she said, “What fault of mine has altered your feelings, my dearest one? Where is that care for me that used to come before all else?”</i></p>	<p><u>changed your mind</u></p>
<p>iam potes Alcyone securus abesse relicta?</p>		<p><i>Are you now able to be away untroubled, while Alcyone is left behind?</i></p>	<p><u>with Alcyone left behind</u></p>
<p>iam via longa placet? iam sum tibi carior absens?</p>	[10]	<p><i>Does a long journey now please [you]? Am I now dearer to you when I am not here?</i></p>	<p><u>road</u> <u>absent</u></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>at, puto, <u>per terras</u> iter est, tantumque dolebo, non etiam metuam, curaeque timore carebunt.</p> <p>aequora me terrent et ponti tristis imago: et laceras nuper tabulas in litore vidi, et saepe in tumultis <u>sine corpore</u> nomina legi.</p>	[15]	<p style="text-align: center;">A (continued)</p> <p><i>But, I suppose, your journey is <u>across land</u>, and I shall only grieve, I shall not also fear, and my concerns will be free of anxiety.</i></p> <p><i>The seas terrify me, and the sad vision of the sea: recently I both saw shattered timbers on the beach and have often read names on tombs <u>that contain no body</u>.</i></p>	<p><i><u>through lands</u></i></p> <p><i><u>without a body</u></i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>quod tua si flecti precibus sententia nullis, care, potest, coniunx, nimiumque es certus eundi,</p> <p>me quoque tolle simul. certe iactabimur una,</p> <p>nec nisi quae patiar, metuam: pariterque feremus, quidquid erit, pariter super aequora lata feremur.”</p> <p>talibus Aeolidis dictis lacrimisque movetur sidereus coniunx: neque enim minor ignis in ipso est.</p> <p>sed neque propositos pelagi dimittere cursus, nec vult Alcyonen in partem adhibere pericli,</p>	<p>[5]</p>	<p>B (lines 439 – 453)</p> <p><i>But if your purpose cannot be turned by any prayers, my dear husband, and you are absolutely determined to go,</i></p> <p><i>take me with you too! We shall certainly be storm-tossed together;</i></p> <p><i>unless I suffer these things [with you], I shall be afraid: and together we shall bear [it], whatever it will be; together, we shall be borne over the broad seas.”</i></p> <p><i>Her star-born husband was moved by such words and tears from the daughter of Aeolus, for he himself felt the fire [of love] no less,</i></p> <p><i>but he did not wish to put off his planned voyage, nor to add Alcyone to any form of danger.</i></p>	<p><i>is able to be moved by no prayers</i></p> <p><i>excessively sure of going</i></p> <p><i>(nec nisi = unless)</i></p> <p><i>for neither was the fire in him less</i></p> <p><i>journeys of the sea</i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p><u>multaque respondit timidum solantia pectus.</u></p> <p>non tamen idcirco causam probat; addidit illis hoc quoque lenimen, quo solo flexit amantem:</p> <p>“longa quidem est nobis omnis mora: sed tibi iuro <u>per patrios ignes, si me modo fata remittant,</u></p>	[10]	<p style="text-align: center;">B (continued)</p> <p><i>He replied at length, trying to soothe her fearful heart,</i></p> <p><i>despite that however he did not win his case. To those reasons he also added this consolation, by which alone he moved his loving [wife].</i></p> <p><i>“This whole delay is indeed long for us both: but I swear to you <u>by my father’s fiery light, that, if the fates might only allow me,</u></i></p>	<p><i>he replied many [words] that try to sooth her fearful heart</i></p> <p><i>by the fires of my father might only let me go back</i></p>
<p>ante reversurum, quam <u>luna bis impleat orbem.</u>”</p>	[15]	<p><i>I shall turn back before <u>the moon twice fills her orb.</u>”</i></p>	<p><i>(i.e. two months)</i></p>

Alcyone's hopes of a speedy return were raised by this speech but when she saw the preparations for departure, she feared the worst. She embraced her husband and promptly collapsed.

C (lines 461 – 468)

Though Ceyx sought to delay his departure, the young sailors started to row and to split the waves with a regular beat. Alcyone raised her moist eyes and saw her husband standing on the stern, giving her a wave; she returned the gesture. When the ship drew further from the land and her eyes could not make out his face, she followed, as best she could, the departing vessel with her gaze.

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Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>aut minus, aut certe <u>medium</u> non amplius <u>aequor</u> <u>puppe</u> <u>secabatur</u>, longeque erat utraque tellus,</p> <p>cum mare <u>sub noctem</u> tumidis albescere coepit fluctibus et praecipua spirare valentius eurus.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">D (lines 478 – 501)</p> <p><i>The sea was being cut by the ship either less than, or certainly no more than <u>halfway</u> [through the journey], and the land was far off on both sides,</i></p> <p><i>when, at nightfall, the sea began to turn white with swollen waves and the prevailing south east wind to blow more strongly.</i></p>	<p><i>the middle of the sea was being cut</i></p> <p><i>under night</i></p>
<p>“ardua iamdudum demittite cornua” rector clamat “et <u>antennis</u> totum subnectite velum.”</p> <p>hic iubet: impediunt adversae iussa procellae, nec sinit audiri vocem fragor aequoris ullam.</p>	[5]	<p><i>“Lower the high yardarms right now”, the captain cried, “and furl the whole sail from <u>the ends</u>!”</i></p> <p><i>He gave the orders: the opposing winds prevented his orders [reaching his men], nor did the crash of the sea allow any voice to be heard.</i></p>	<p><i>the ends of the yardarms</i></p>
<p>sponte tamen properant alii subducere remos, pars munire latus, pars <u>ventis</u> <u>vela</u> <u>negare</u>.</p>	[10]	<p><i>However, of their own accord some hurried to draw in the oars, others to protect the ship’s sides, others to reef the sails because of the winds.</i></p>	<p><i>to deny the sails to the winds</i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>egerit hic fluctus aequorque refundit in aequor,</p> <p>hic rapit antemnas. quae dum sine lege geruntur, aspera crescit hiems, omnique e parte feroces bella gerunt venti fretaque indignantia miscent.</p> <p>ipse pavet nec se, qui sit status, ipse fatetur scire ratis rector, nec, quid iubeatve velitve:</p> <p>tanta mali moles tantoque potentior arte est.</p> <p>quippe sonant clamore viri, stridore rudentes, undarum incursu gravis unda, tonitribus aether.</p>	<p>[15]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D (continued)</p> <p><i>This man bails out the waves and the pours back the sea into the sea,</i></p> <p><i>this man grabs the spars. While these things were being done without being ordered, the storms grew violent, and from every direction, fierce winds waged war and the angry waves <u>joined battle</u>.</i></p> <p><i>The captain himself was afraid and confessed that he himself neither knew what the situation was, nor, what he should order or what he should want [to happen]:</i></p> <p><i>so great was the calamity and so much more powerful than his skill.</i></p> <p><i>Indeed, men <u>were shouting</u>, ropes were noisy with creaking, the sea heavy with the assault of the waves, and the air ringing with thunder.</i></p>	<p><i><u>mix together</u></i></p> <p><i><u>make noise with a shout</u></i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>fluctibus erigitur caelumque aequare videtur pontus et inductas <u>aspergine tangere</u> nubes;</p> <p>et modo, cum fulvas ex imo vertit harenas, concolor est illis, Stygia modo nigrior unda,</p> <p>sternitur interdum spumisque sonantibus albet.</p>	[20]	<p style="text-align: center;">D (continued)</p> <p>The sea was raised up by the waves and seemed to be level with sky and to <u>moisten</u> the gathered clouds <u>with spray</u>.</p> <p><i>At one minute, it was the same colour as those [clouds] are when [the sea] turns the sand yellow from its depths, and at another was blacker than the river Styx, and sometimes it was spread out and was white with hissing froth.</i></p>	<u>touch with spray</u>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>ipsa quoque his agitur vicibus Trachinia puppis,</p> <p>et nunc sublimis veluti de vertice montis</p> <p>despicere in valles imumque Acheronta videtur,</p> <p>nunc, ubi demissam curvum circumstetit aequor, susplicere inferno summum de gurgite caelum.</p> <p>saepe dat ingentem fluctu latus icta fragorem</p> <p>nec levius pulsata sonat, quam ferreus olim cum laceras aries ballistave concutit arces.</p>	<p>[5]</p>	<p>E (lines 502 – 523)</p> <p><i>The Trachinian ship itself was also driven in turn,</i></p> <p><i>and now high as if on the peak of a mountain,</i></p> <p><i>it seemed to look down into the valleys and depths of Acheron,</i></p> <p><i>now, when the curved sea surrounded the sunken [vessel], [it seemed] to look up at the highest heavens from the underworld's abyss.</i></p> <p><i>Often the ship's side gave a mighty crack [as it was] struck by a wave</i></p> <p><i>and rang out with the battering no more gently than when sometimes an iron battering-ram, or a ballista, violently shakes shattered citadels;</i></p>	<p><i>is driven by these turns</i></p> <p><i>from the peak of a high mountain</i></p> <p><i>[the ship] struck in respect of its side gives a huge crack</i></p> <p><i>Nor more lightly does it ring when struck</i></p>

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>utque <u>solent</u> sumptis incursu viribus <u>ire</u> pectore in arma feri protentaque tela leones,</p> <p>sic <u>ubi se ventis admiserat unda coortis</u>,</p> <p>ibat in arma ratis multoque erat altior illis.</p> <p>iamque labant cunei, spoliataque tegmine cerae rima patet praebetque viam letalibus undis.</p>	[10]	<p style="text-align: center;">E (continued)</p> <p><i>and as when fierce lions, having gathered up their strength with their attack, <u>go out</u> chest-first against the arms and weapons directed at [them],</i></p> <p><i>in this way <u>when the surf had let itself go [in the face of] the risen winds</u>,</i></p> <p><i>[and] was going against the defences of the boat and was much higher than them.</i></p> <p><i>Now the wooden wedges loosened, and a crack opened, stripped of its covering of wax, and offered a way for the deadly waters.</i></p>	<p><i><u>are accustomed to go</u></i></p> <p><i><u>after the winds had risen, the surf had let itself go</u></i></p>
<p>ecce cadunt largi resolutis nubibus imbres,</p> <p>inque fretum credas totum descendere caelum, inque plagas caeli tumefactum ascendere pontum.</p>	[15]	<p><i>Look! Plentiful rain fell from the dispersed clouds</i></p> <p><i>and you would believe that the whole sky was descending onto the sea, and the swollen sea was climbing up towards the regions of sky.</i></p>	

Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>vela <u>madent</u> nimbis, et cum caelestibus undis aequoreae miscentur aquae; caret ignibus aether, caecaque nox premitur tenebris hiemisque suisque. discutiunt tamen <u>has</u> praebentque micantia lumen fulmina: fulmineis ardescunt ignibus ignes.</p>	[20]	<p style="text-align: center;">E (continued)</p> <p><i>The sails <u>were soaked</u> with the downpour, and the ocean waves were mingled with the heavenly waves; the upper air was devoid of stars, and dark night was made heavier by the darkness of the storm and its own [darkness].</i></p> <p><i>However flashing thunderbolts cut through it and provided light: stars began to glow with the fires of lightning.</i></p>	<p><i><u>are wet</u></i></p> <p><i><u>these [shadows]</u></i></p>

F (lines 537 – 550)

The sailors' skill deserted them, their spirits fell, it seemed that as many times as the waves came on to them, their deaths rushed in and burst upon them. This man could not hold back his tears, this one was dazed, that one called out that those who would have proper funerals were the lucky ones, this one beseeched the gods with prayers and they held out their arms in vain to the sky which they could not see, and begged for help. For some, their brother or father came to mind, for others their home and children and whatever was left behind. It was Alcyone that moved Ceyx; there was nothing but Alcyone on Ceyx's lips; although he longed for her alone, still he rejoiced that she was not there. He wanted to look back at the shores of his kingdom and to turn his last gaze to his home, but he did not know where it was; the sea was boiling with such a great whirling and the shadow provided by the pitch-black clouds hid the whole sky, increasing the appearance of night.

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Latin		English Meaning	Literal Translation
<p>tenet ipse manu, qua scepra solebat, fragmina navigii Ceyx socerumque patremque invocat heu! frustra. sed plurima <u>nantis in ore</u> Alcyone coniunx: illam meminitque refertque,</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">G (lines 560 – 569)</p> <p><i>Ceyx himself with the hand with which he was accustomed [to hold] his sceptre, clung on to the wreckage of his vessel and appealed to his father-in-law and his father, alas! In vain! But most often <u>on his lips as he swam</u>, was [the name of] Alcyone, his wife: he remembered her, he spoke of her,</i></p>	<p><i><u>on the lips of him swimming</u></i></p>
<p>illius ante oculos ut agant sua <u>corpora</u> fluctus optat et exanimis manibus tumuletur amicis.</p>	[5]	<p><i>he wished that the sea might wash his <u>corpse</u> ashore before her eyes and [that] lifeless he might be buried by her kindly hands.</i></p>	<p><i><u>bodies. (plural for singular)</u></i></p>
<p>dum <u>natat</u>, absentem, quotiens sinit hiscere fluctus, nominat Alcyonen ipsisque immurmurat undis.</p>		<p><i>While he <u>was swimming</u>, as often as the sea allowed him to open his mouth, he called out [the name of] absent Alcyone and he whispered it within the waves themselves.</i></p>	
<p>ecce super medios fluctus niger arcus aquarum frangitur et <u>rupta mersum caput obruit unda</u>.</p>	[10]	<p><i>Look! A black arch of water was dashed over the middle of the waves, <u>the wave burst, submerged his head and he drowned</u>.</i></p>	<p><i><u>the broken wave drowned his submerged head</u></i></p>

Alcyone keeps busy waiting for her husband's return but her frequent visits to Juno's temple cause the goddess to send a vision to the wretched woman. In this vision she sees Ceyx and learns of his death. She vows to die too, and the next morning in her distress she goes back to the beach.

H (lines 710 – 728 part line)

It was early morning. She left her house for the shore and sadly looked for the place from which she had watched him leaving. While she lingered there, she was saying, "Here he cast off. On this shore he kissed me as he left." While she recalled these well-remembered actions each in their place, she looked out to sea and saw in the water, far off, something like a body. At first, she was uncertain what it was; after the waves brought it a little nearer, it was clear that it was a body. She, unaware of who the ship-wrecked man was, and moved by the omen, shed tears for the unknown man, said, "Alas! Wretched man, whoever you are, and whoever your wife is!" The body was driven closer by the waves; the more she looked on it, the less she was in her right mind, and then as it was moved close to the land, so that now she was able to recognise it, she saw: it was her husband. "It is him!" she exclaimed and at the same time she tore at her face, her hair and her clothes and holding out trembling hands to Ceyx, she said, "O dearest husband, do you return to me in this way, so piteously?"

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I (lines 728 part line - 746)

Beside the waves was a breakwater which broke the first waves of the sea and weakened the forces of the waves. She jumped upon this – it was amazing that she could: she began to fly beating the light air with newly-made feathers and, wretched as she was, she skimmed with her wings the top of the waves. As she flew, she made a piteous sound from her sorrowful beak, like someone full of grief. When she touched the silent and bloodless body, she embraced the beloved limbs with her new wings and gave cold kisses in vain with her hard beak. People doubted whether Ceyx felt this or whether it just seemed as if the motion of the waves raised up his face: but he did feel it, and at last, with the gods taking pity on them, they were both changed into birds. Love remained then too, obedient as it was to fate, and their marriage bond was not broken when they gained wings. They mate and become parents every year and for seven calm days during winter, Alcyone broods on the surface of the water with her wings stretching out over her nest.

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