



CSCP Support Materials: Student Booklet

Eduqas GCSE Latin
Component 3A

Latin Literature (Verse)
The Adventures of Perseus

For examination in 2024 - 2025

PUBLISHED BY THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CLASSICS PROJECT

Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge,

184 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8PQ, UK

<http://www.CambridgeSCP.com>

© University of Cambridge School Classics Project, 2022

Copyright

In the case of this publication, the CSCP is waiving normal copyright provisions in that copies of this material may be made free of charge and without specific permission so long as they are for educational or personal use within the school or institution which downloads the publication. All other forms of copying (for example, for inclusion in another publication) are subject to specific permission from the Project.

First published 2022

version date 11/07/2022

Acknowledgement

Cover image: Andromeda mosaic from 'House of Poseidon' in Zeugma, 2nd-3rd century AD,
Zeugma Mosaic Museum, Gaziantep, Turkey
Dosseman, [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/), via [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andromeda_mosaic.jpg)

Using this Document

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.

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

The Adventures of Perseus
Ovid, Metamorphoses 4.615 – 758, 765 – 803

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!

The story begins when Perseus was returning home with Medusa's head. He was the son of Jupiter and the mortal woman, Danae, whose father, Acrisius, had imprisoned her in a tower because of a prophecy which foretold that any child of hers would bring him death. Jupiter visited Danae in a shower of gold, and she conceived a son. Many years later, Perseus was sent on a mission by king Polydectes to bring back the head of the Gorgon, Medusa. The king hoped that Perseus would be killed and therefore he would be able to marry Danae, a marriage to which Perseus was opposed.

Section F

- The girl cried out; her sorrowful father and her mother were both close by, both wretched, though her mother had more cause to be so. They could bring no help to her except to weep and wail, as you might expect, and they clung to her chained body. Then the stranger spoke thus: 'There will be plenty of time left
- 5 for weeping but the time for bringing help is short. If I, Perseus, were to ask for this girl's hand in marriage – I, Perseus, son of Jupiter and the woman who, though shut away in a tower, was made pregnant by Jupiter's fertile gold: I, who overcame the snake-haired Gorgon, and dared to move through the airy breezes on beating wings – I would certainly make the best son-in-law you
- 10 could possibly have. Besides such benefits as these, I hope to perform a valuable service (may the gods favour me): if she is saved by my bravery, I propose she may be mine.' Her parents accepted the offer (who would have hesitated?), and begged him for help, promising in addition their kingdom as a wedding gift.
- 15 And look, just as a swift ship with a sharp prow cuts the waters driven by the sweating muscles of the crew, so the beast cut through the waters with the force of its breast. It was as far from the rocks as a Balearic sling is able to send a lead shot twisting through the air, when suddenly Perseus launched himself from the earth with a leap. He flew up high into the clouds. When the
- 20 man's shadow appeared on the surface of the sea, the monster saw the shadow and furiously attacked it.

Notes

Section G

- 11 ille avidos morsus velocibus effugit alis,
12 quaque patet, nunc terga cavis super obsita conchis,
13 nunc laterum costas, nunc qua tenuissima cauda
14 desinit in pisces, falcato vulnerat ense.

- 11 ille, illa, illud – *that, he, she, it*
avidus, -a, -um – *greedy*
morsus, -us, m. – *bite, jaw*
velox, -ocis – *swift*
effugio, -ere – *flee, escape*
ala, -ae, f. – *wing*
12 quaque – *wherever*
pateo, -ere – *lie open, be accessible*
patet – *there is an opportunity*
nunc ... nunc ... – *now ... now ...*
tergum, -i, n. – *back*
cavus, -a, -um – *hollow*
super + acc. – *above, on top*
obsitus, -a, -um – *covered with,*
studded with

- concha, -ae, f. – *shell*
13 latus, -eris, n. – *side, flank*
costa, -ae, f. – *rib*
nunc – *now*
qua – *wherever*
tenuissimus, -a, um – *thinnest, very*
thin
cauda, -ae, f. – *tail*
14 desino, -ere – *stop (here: taper, grow*
narrower)
in + acc. – *into*
piscis, -is, m. – *fish*
falcatus, -a, -um – *curved, shaped like*
a scythe
vulnero, -are – *wound, injure*
ensis, -is, m. – *sword*

Section G

- 17 nec bibulis ultra Perseus talaribus ausus
18 credere conspexit scopulum, qui vertice summo
19 stantibus exstat aquis, operitur ab aequore moto;
20 nixus eo rupisque tenens iuga prima sinistra
21 ter quater exegit repetita per ilia ferrum.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>17 nec – <i>nor, not</i>
bibulus, -a, -um – <i>soaking (wet)</i>
ultra – <i>further, anymore</i>
Perseus, Persei, m. – <i>Perseus (Son of Jupiter and Danae)</i>
talaria, -ium, n. pl. – <i>winged sandals</i>
audeo, -ere, ausus sum – <i>dare</i></p> <p>18 credo, -ere + dat. – <i>trust</i>
conspicio, -ere, conspexi – <i>catch sight of</i>
scopulus, -i, m. – <i>rock, cliff</i>
qui, quae, quod – <i>who, which</i>
vertex, -icis, f. – <i>peak</i>
summus, -a, -um – <i>highest</i></p> <p>19 sto, -are – <i>stand still (here: be calm)</i>
exsto, -are – <i>stand out</i>
aqua, -ae, f. – <i>water</i>
operio, -ire – <i>cover</i></p> | <p>a/ab + abl. – <i>by</i>
aequor, -oris, n. – <i>sea</i>
moveo, -ere, movi, motus – <i>move</i></p> <p>20 nitor, niti, nixus sum – <i>lean on</i>
eo – <i>on this</i>
rupes, -is, f. – <i>cliff (-que – and)</i>
tenens, -entis – <i>grasping, holding</i>
iugum, -i, n. – <i>ridge</i>
primus, -a, -um – <i>first (here: topmost)</i>
sinistra, -ae, f. – <i>left hand</i></p> <p>21 ter – <i>three times</i>
quater – <i>four times</i>
exigo, -ere, exegi – <i>drive, thrust</i>
repetitus, -a, -um – <i>repeatedly attacked</i>
per + acc. – <i>through</i>
ilia, -ium, n. – <i>belly (plural only)</i>
ferrum, -i, n. – <i>sword</i></p> |
|--|--|
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Section H

- 3 ipse manus hausta victrices abluit unda,
- 4 anguiferumque caput dura ne laedat harena,
- 5 mollit humum foliis natasque sub aequore virgas
- 6 sternit et imponit Phorcynidos ora Medusae.

- 3 ipse, ipsa, ipsum – *himself, herself, itself*
manus, -us, f. – *hand*
haurio, -ire, hausi, haustus – *draw up, gather*
victrix, -icis, f. – *female conqueror*
manus victrices – *victorious hands*
abluo, -ere – *wash, cleanse*
unda, -ae, f. – *sea, sea water*
- 4 anguifer, -era, -erum – *snake-bearing*
caput, -itis, n. – *head*
durus, -a, -um – *hard*
ne + subi. – *in order to not ...*
laedo, -ere – *hurt, injure*
harena, -ae, f. – *sand*
- 5 mollio, -ire – *soften*

- humus, -i, f. – *ground*
folium, -ii, n. – *leaf*
nascor, nasci, natus sum – *originate, grow (-que – and)*
sub + abl. – *beneath*
aequor, -oris, n. – *surface (of the sea)*
virga, -ae, f. – *twig (here: seaweed)*
- 6 sterno, -ere – *spread*
et – *and*
impono, -ere – *place on*
Phorcynis, Phorcynidos, f. – *daughter of Phorcus*
os, -oris, n. – *mouth, face (here: head)*
Medusa, -ae, f. – *Medusa, the Gorgon, whose head Perseus has cut off*

Section I

To celebrate his victory, Perseus set up altars to Mercury, Minerva and Jupiter, and sacrificed to them. Perseus and Andromeda were married and there was much rejoicing at the wedding feast. When the feast was over and they had all had plenty of wine, which is the generous gift of Bacchus, Perseus asked about

- 5** the country and the people who lived there, and their customs and character. The king, Cepheus, explained to him and then said, 'Now, my very brave fellow, tell us, I beg you, with what bravery and skill you stole away that head which was covered with snakes rather than hair. 'Perseus, the descendant of Agenor,
- 10** told them about a place lying beneath the cold slopes of Mount Atlas, protected by a mass of solid stone; in the entrance of which lived twin sisters, daughters of Phorcys, who shared the use of a single eye. This, by cunning and skill, he managed to get hold of as it was being passed from one to the other; and then through hidden and trackless pathways, rocky country bristling with overgrown
- 15** woods, he reached the home of the Gorgons. Everywhere, through all the fields and roads he saw statues of men and wild beasts who, having seen Medusa, were turned into stone; he himself however looked at Medusa reflected in the bronze of his polished shield which he carried in his left hand. While deep sleep held the snakes and Medusa herself, he snatched away her head from
- 20** her neck. Pegasus, swift on his wings, and his brother, Chrysaor, were born from their mother's blood.

Notes
