



National
Qualifications

**Latin
Prescribed Text
Pliny Letters**

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Latin (National 5)

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Pliny Letters

Pliny VII.27

Extract 1

In Latin

erat Athenis spatiosa et capax domus sed infamis et pestilens. per silentium noctis sonus ferri, et si attenderes acrius, strepitus vinculorum longius primo, deinde e proximo reddebatur: mox adparebat idolon, senex macie et squalore confectus, promissa barba horrenti capillo; cruribus compedes, manibus catenas gerebat quatiebatque.

Extract 2

In English

As a result, the unfortunate people who lived in the house spent fearful nights terrified and not being able to get to sleep. Lack of sleep caused illness first and then death, as their fears increased. Also, during the day, although the ghost had disappeared, the memory of it stayed in their imaginations, so that the terror of the ghost was always with them, even
5 when the ghost itself was not there.

No one could live in the house any more. It stood empty and became totally abandoned. Only the ghost inhabited it.

However, it was then advertised as available for rent or for sale, in the hope that someone would come along not knowing that it was haunted.

Extract 3

In Latin

venit Athenas philosophus Athenodorus, legit titulum auditoque pretio, quia suspecta vilitas, percunctatus omnia docetur ac nihilo minus, immo tanto magis conducit. ubi coepit advesperascere, iubet sterni sibi in prima domus parte, poscit pugillares stilum lumen, suos omnes in interiora dimittit; ipse ad scribendum animum oculos manum intendit, ne vacua
5 mens audita simulacra et inanes sibi metus fingeret. initio, quale ubique, silentium noctis; dein concuti ferrum, vincula moveri. ille non tollere oculos, non remittere stilum, sed affirmare animum auribusque praetendere. tum crebrescere fragor, adventare et iam ut in limine, iam ut intra limen audiri. respicit, videt agnoscitque narratam sibi effigiem. stabat innuebatque digito similis vocanti. hic contra ut paulum exspectaret manu significat
10 rursusque ceris et stilo incumbit.

illa scribentis capiti catenis insonabat. respicit rursus idem quod prius innuentem, nec moratus tollit lumen et sequitur. ibat illa lento gradu quasi gravis vinculis. postquam deflexit in aream domus, repente dilapsa deserit comitem. desertus herbas et folia concerpta signum loco ponit.

Extract 4

In English

The next day, Athenodorus went to the magistrates and advised them to order this ground to be dug up. There, they found bones twisted and tangled up with chains. These bones had no flesh on them, because the corpse had been eaten away and destroyed, both by these chains and by the length of time it had lain in the soil. The skeleton was gathered up



- 5 and given a proper burial at public expense. After this was done, the ghost had been finally laid to rest and the house was haunted no more.

Pliny IX.33

Extract 5

In English

In Africa, there is a town called Hippo, situated on the coast. Nearby, there is a large lake which is linked to the sea by a channel. Water flows along this channel like a river, one way and then the other, depending on the changing tides.

- 5 People of all ages enjoy spending time here fishing, sailing and even swimming, especially the boys who have lots of time for fun. These boys challenge each other to swim out as far as they can and the one who leaves both the beach and the other swimmers furthest behind is the winner.

In one of these contests, one particular boy, braver than the others, began to swim further and further out.

Extract 6

In Latin

delphinus occurrit et nunc praecedere puerum nunc sequi, nunc circumire postremo subire, deponere, iterum subire trepidantemque perferre primum in altum, mox flectit ad litus redditque terrae.

- 5 serpit per coloniam fama; concurrere omnes, ipsum puerum tamquam miraculum adspicere, interrogare, audire, narrare. postero die obsident litus prospectant mare, et si quid mari simile. natant pueri ; inter hos ille, sed cautius. delphinus rursus ad tempus, rursus ad puerum venit. fugit ille cum ceteris. delphinus, quasi invitet et revocet, exsilit, mergitur, variosque orbes implicat expeditque. hoc altero die, hoc tertio, hoc pluribus, donec homines innutritos mari subiret timendi pudor : accedunt et adludunt et appellant, tangunt etiam pertrectantque praebentem. crescit audacia experimento. maxime puer, 10 qui primus expertus est, adnatat natanti, insilit tergo, fertur referturque, agnoscere se, amari putat, amat ipse ; neuter timet, neuter timetur ; huius fiducia, mansuetudo illius augetur. nec non alii pueri dextra laevaue simul eunt hortantes monentesque. ibat una (id quoque mirum) delphinus alius tantum spectator et comes.

The dolphin gradually became tame enough to roll itself onto the beach. One day the local Roman governor thought it would bring luck if he poured some oil onto the dolphin's back. This frightened the dolphin and it went missing. However, after a few days, it did reappear and started entertaining the crowds again....

Extract 7

In English

The sight of this dolphin attracted visiting government officials from all round the country, but the expense of entertaining them during their stay, which the little town had to pay for, was proving to be too much.

In the end, the peace and quiet of the town was being lost.

- 5 As the reason for all the crowds coming to the town was to see the dolphin, it was decided that it should be killed, in secret.

[END OF TEXT]

