



National  
Qualifications

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**Latin  
Prescribed Text  
Virgil Aeneid II**

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For use in National Qualifications

**Latin (National 5)**

**Valid from August 2013**

This edition: October 2013 (version 1.0)

Publication code: BB6708

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## Virgil Aeneid II

### Extract 1

#### In English

Everyone fell silent, and fixed their eyes on Aeneas, eager to hear him. Then lord Aeneas from his high couch began to speak: 'My Queen, you are asking me to re-live unspeakable suffering, to tell how the Greeks plundered the treasures of Troy and its kingdom, which I remember with sadness, and the pitiful horrors I myself witnessed, in which I was personally involved. Who, in telling this tale, even one of the Myrmidons or Dolopes, or a soldier of hard-bitten Ulysses, could stop himself from weeping?

### Extract 2

#### In Latin

.....et iam nox umida caelo  
praecipitat suadentque cadentia sidera somnos.  
sed si tantus amor casus cognoscere nostros  
et breviter Troiae supremum audire laborem,  
5 quamquam animus meminisse horret luctuque refugit,  
incipiam. fracti bello fatisque repulsi  
ductores Danaum tot iam labentibus annis  
instar montis equum divina Palladis arte  
aedificant, sectaque intexunt abiete costas;  
10 votum pro reditu simulant; ea fama vagatur.  
huc delecta virum sortiti corpora furtim  
includunt caeco lateri penitusque cavernas  
ingentes utrumque armato milite complent.  
  
est in conspectu Tenedos, notissima fama  
15 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.  
ergo omnis longo solvit se Teucra luctu;  
  
20 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.  
pars stupet innuptae donum exitiale Minervae  
25 et molem mirantur equi; primusque Thymoetes  
duci intra muros hortatur et arce locari,  
sive dolo seu iam Troiae sic fata ferebant.

### Extract 3

#### In English

But Capys, and others whose grasp of the situation was better, urged us to throw this work of Greek cunning, this poisoned gift, into the sea, to light fires under it and to set it ablaze, or else to drill into its hollow womb and investigate there for hiding places. The people were not sure what to do, so split into opposing groups.

## Extract 4

### In Latin

- primus ibi ante omnis magna comitante caterva  
Laocoon ardens summa decurrit ab arce,  
et procul 'o miseri, quae tanta insania, cives?  
creditis avectos hostis? aut ulla putatis  
5 dona carere dolis Danaum? sic notus Ulixes?  
aut hoc inclusi ligno occultantur Achivi,  
aut haec in nostros fabricata est machina muros,  
inspectura domos venturaque desuper urbi,  
aut aliquis latet error; equo ne credite, Teucri.  
10 quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.'  
sic fatus validis ingentem viribus hastam  
in latus inque feri curvam compagibus alvum  
contorsit. stetit illa tremens, uteroque recusso  
insonuere cavae gemitumque dedere cavernae.  
15 et, si fata deum, si mens non laeva fuisset,  
impulerat ferro Argolicas foedare latebras,  
Troiaque nunc staret, Priamique arx alta maneres.

*Suddenly, some Trojan shepherds dragged forward a prisoner – a young Greek man. He stood in chains before the assembled Trojans, looking at them with defiance.*

*This young Greek man was a spy called Sinon. He had volunteered to try to persuade the Trojans to take the wooden horse into the city.*

*He lied to the Trojans, saying that Ulysses hated him, and was planning to kill him, so he was prepared to tell the Trojans the Greeks' secret, that the wooden horse was a gift to Minerva which the Greeks hoped would guarantee them a safe homecoming. He said that, if the Trojans took the horse into Troy, the good luck it would bring would pass from the Greeks to the Trojans. In this way, Sinon hoped to persuade the Trojans to take this deadly gift inside their city walls.*

## Extract 5

### In English

So, as a result of this deception, and the craftiness of the devious Sinon, the story was believed, and we were trapped by his trickery and his crocodile tears – we! whom neither Diomedes, son of Tydeus, nor Thessalian Achilles could tame, and we! whom neither a ten year war could bring to heel, nor a thousand ships could defeat.

- 5 At this point, an even more frightful disaster came upon us, shocked us and took us by surprise. Laocoon, chosen in a lottery to be a priest of Neptune, was sacrificing a great bull at the sacred altar. Suddenly, from the island of Tenedos, across the calm water, came two sea-serpents, with great coiled bodies. They rose up from the sea and, side by side, made for the land. Their necks and blood-red crests loomed above the water and their  
10 tails churned up the sea behind them, their great backs arching high. The sea thundered and foamed. Then they reached dry land. Their bloodshot eyes blazed with fire and they licked their hissing lips with flickering tongues.

- Blood drained from our faces, and we fled. Like arrows, they headed straight for Laocoon. Firstly, the serpents twisted themselves around the tiny bodies of his two sons, and bit off  
15 their frail limbs. Next, as he came with weapons to help his sons, they seized Laocoon himself and held him tight in their huge coils. The serpents wrapped their scaly bodies round his waist and throat, their heads and towering necks looming above him.

He tried frantically to uncoil their knots with his hands, his priest's head-dress soaked in pus and black venom, all the time raising blood-curdling screaming to the sky. It sounded like the bellowing of a wounded bull, which has thrown off a badly aimed axe from its neck and is fleeing from the sacrificial altar.

But the two sea-serpents slid away to the high temple of the pitiless goddess, Minerva, seeking shelter within its walls, and lurked at her feet, behind her round shield.

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