

WJEC

Level 2 Certificate in Latin Literature

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.	210
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.	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.

