

Aeneid Book III
Virgil's Art 4
Lines 588-606



First use your flash cards, or those on Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/gb/617807965/aeneid-cambridge-international-igcse-2023-25-flash-cards/> to make sure you can translate these lines. Now revise the notes relating to these lines in the lesson Year 2 term 2 weeks 6 and 7 day 2.

Postera iamque dies primo surgebat Eoo
umentemque Aurora polo dimoverat umbram,
cum subito e silvis macie confecta suprema 590
ignoti nova forma viri miserandaque cultu
procedit supplexque manus ad litora tendit.
respicimus. dira inluvies immissaque barba,
consertum tegimen spinis: at cetera Graius,
et quondam patriis ad Troiam missus in armis. 595
isque ubi Dardanios habitus et Troia vidit
arma procul, paulum aspectu conterritus haesit
continuitque gradum; mox sese ad litora praeceps
cum fletu precibusque tulit: 'per sidera testor,
per superos atque hoc caeli spirabile lumen, 600
tollite me, Teucris. quascumque abducite terras:
hoc sat erit. scio me Danais e classibus unum
et bello Iliacos fateor petiisse penatis.
pro quo, si sceleris tanta est iniuria nostri,
spargite me in fluctus vastoque immergite ponto; 605
si pereo, hominum manibus periisse iuvabit.'

- (a) *forma viri*. (line 591) Who is this person? How has he come to be on the island? What two things does he see that makes him hesitate to approach Aeneas and his followers? [4]
- (b) *ignoti... ..ad litora tendit*. (lines 591-2): how does Virgil make this a vivid description of what happened? You should discuss both what he says and how he says it. [4]
- (c) Translate *per sidera... ..tollite me, Teuceri*. Lines 599-601. [5]
- (d) What confession does he make and what punishment does he suggest for himself? (lines 601-605). [2]
- (e) Give one way in which Virgil matches sound to sense in line 606. [1]
Hint: “matches sound to sense” means look for things you **hear** i.e. alliteration, assonance or scansion!
- (f) ‘Virgil's vivid description is what makes the Aeneid so enjoyable.’ How far do you agree with this statement based on the extract of the Aeneid you have read? Support your answer with reference to the text. You should write at least 100 words. [10]
Hint: this question requires that you recall the whole of the set passage, not just the lines quoted on the paper. However it may be possible to “mine” the lines on the paper for quotations. “How far” means you should not just write about Virgil's descriptions but use “on the one hand... on the other hand... to ensure you answer the question. Quote from the set passage as much as you can. You do not need to quote in Latin, though if you can, do so. Keep to the point. Anything you write which is “off topic” will just be ignored.

Specimen answers are on the next page.

(a) *forma viri*. (line 591) Who is this person? How has he come to be on the island? What two things does he see that makes him hesitate to approach Aeneas and his followers? [4]
Achaemenides, a companion of Ulysses.[1] He was left behind on the island when Ulysses and his other companions escaped from the Cyclops Polyphemus. [1] He sees the Trojan clothes [1] and weapons [1].

(b) *ignoti... ..ad litora tendit*. (lines 591-2): how does Virgil make this a vivid description of what happened? You should discuss both what he says and how he says it. [4]
Virgil makes his description of Achaemenides vivid by choosing words *ignoti*, [1] *nova*, [1] *miseranda*, [1] that deftly paint his strange and pitiful condition. *ignoti nova forma viri* is a small chiasmus [1] which emphasises this.

(c) Translate *per sidera... ..tollite me, Teuceri*. Lines 599-601. [5]
Check this with your flashcards.

(d) What confession does he make and what punishment does he suggest for himself? (lines 601-605). [2]
Achaemenides confesses that he is a Greek, one who has made war against the Trojan gods, [1] and he suggests that the Trojans scatter him over the waves or drown him.

(e) Give one way in which Virgil matches sound to sense in line 3. [1]
This line has the maximum number of dactyls to illustrate Achaemenides rapidly beating heart as he offers to die as a punishment.

(f) ‘Virgil's vivid description is what makes the Aeneid so enjoyable.’ How far do you agree with this statement based on the extract of the Aeneid you have read? Support your answer with reference to the text. You should write at least 100 words. [10]
On the one hand Virgil's vivid descriptions such as that of Achaemenides with his unkempt beard [1] and his clothing fastened together with thorns [1] or the picture of Polyphemus groaning and gnashing his teeth [1] while he bathes his blinded eye [1] make for very enjoyable reading. Virgil's description of the stinking Harpies with their girl faces, [1] wings, [1] clawed hands [1] and thin hungry faces, [1] while it is not perhaps strictly enjoyable, is certainly vivid. When it comes to places, on the other hand, we sometimes feel we would enjoy a more vivid description. What were they like, for instance, these “Clashing Islands”? [1] Virgil does not tell us. He lists the places past which the Trojans sail, Zacynthus, Dulichium, Same, Neritos, Ithacas, Mount Leucata etc. but beyond isolated the words “wooded”, “steep”, “reefs”, “cloudy heights” we have little to help our mental picture. [1]

You may have something very different and still get full marks. The important points are that you answer the question “How far...” (On the one hand... on the other hand... and use the words “enjoyable” and “vivid” to keep you on track) and you quote from the Aeneid in English if not in Latin.