

Year 3 Term 3 Week 2 Day 1

More timed practice in this lesson.

Tackle the first question on the 2006 June paper which you can download here:

<https://pastpapers.papacambridge.com/viewer/caie/cambridge-upper-secondary-igcse-latin-0480-2006-jun-0480-s06-qp-1-pdf>

You should download paper 0480_s06_qp_1.pdf. If you have any difficulties downloading the paper contact me at the email address on the contacts page. Allow yourself 45 minutes.

Hints:

Watch out for subjunctives and also deponent verbs. There are some imperatives too. Take care with tenses in general there are some important pluperfects in this exercise. Don't be fooled by word order: remember, in Latin use noun, pronoun and adjective *endings* to establish who is doing the actin of the verb not the position of the words.

The word *arx, arcis* "citadel", is not on the current syllabus list so I give it to you here. When you have finished check your answers with my attempt on the next page below.

When Hostius, a brave leader, died, the Roman soldiers at once began to retreat. Romulus the King was driven by the fleeing crowd to the old gate of the Palatine Hill.

There, raising his weapons to heaven, he prayed thus to Jupiter: “Having been ordered by your birds,¹ Jupiter, I placed the foundation stone of the city on this Palatine Hill. The Sabines now have the citadel captured by a crime.² From there these armed men march out across the middle rampart. Now you, father of gods and men, I pray, compel the enemy to depart from here, give power back to the Romans, forbid them to be allowed to flee in such a cowardly way. I promise, if today by your aid the city shall be saved, here a temple to you will be built by me, here our children will remember that you in so great danger helped us so much.”

Having said this, the king at once seemed to believe his prayers to the god were now heard. “Romans,” he said, “Jupiter the best and greatest orders you to halt here and again to fight with the Sabines.”

The Romans halted as if ordered by the god's voice. Mettius, the Sabine leader, had run down from the citadel and had driven the fleeing Romans across the whole of the forum; neither was he far now from the gate of the Palatine Hill. Romulus with a detachment of young men now most ferocious, charged him and drove him back.

I thought *Sabini arcem scelere captam iam habent*; was particularly tricky in terms of word order. A little thought would, hopefully make you realise that it could not be “have captured” that would be the perfect tense of *capere*: *cepereunt*. Sometimes, if you are not sure, just playing with the word order makes something pop out that makes complete grammatical sense.

I hope you were not baffled by *promitto me*! The *me* is ablative “by me” and is better put at the end of the sentence in English. Romulus's opening “*hic*” is also better at the end of the sentence.

Decucurrerat and *egerat* are pluperfect “had run”, “had driven”. *Ago* is a very important verb in Latin with a wide range of meanings and it is worth learning in all its moods, voices and tenses thoroughly. I thought *nec procul iam a porta Palatii aberat* was tricky too. I have translated it “neither was he far now from the gate...” to show you what it means literally. Perhaps the examiners might expect “he was not now far from the gate...” as being more idiomatic English.

You can see from this passage that knowing your Roman history and legend can be important. “ordered by your birds...” for instance sounds so strange that you might be tempted to wonder if it was really correct if you did not know the story!

1 Romulus and Remus disagreed about where to put the city. Remus wanted the Aventine Hill, Romulus the Palatine. Remus saw six birds of omen but Romulus saw twelve which he said gave him divine approval.

2 This may be referring to the incident when the Vestal Virgin Tarpeia who betrayed the citadel to the Romans.