

Eduqas Support Materials: Translation

Eduqas GCSE Latin Component 3A

Latin Literature (Verse) Apuleius: Cupid and Psyche

For examination in 2028 – 2029

Using this Document

Each section of the Latin text is displayed in three columns.

In the left-hand column is the Latin text. Line numbers corresponding to the official examination text are indicated in square brackets.

In the centre column is an accessible interpretation of its English meaning (not a literal translation). The purpose of this is to help students enjoy and engage with the meaning of the poem.

Where the interpretation in the central column is significantly different from a literal translation of the Latin, a literal translation is provided in the right-hand column. Where this occurs, the relevant words of the Latin text, English meaning and literal translation are all marked with a dotted line underneath. This is intended to form a bridge for the teacher between the Latin and the English interpretation, and to make it possible for any

student who wishes to do so to see how the Latin gives rise to the English meaning.

Please note that students will not be expected to translate a section of text in this examination, although they are expected to show detailed knowledge and comprehension of the text throughout, and that they understand the meaning of any quotations they use.

Where a word in the English meaning column enhances readability, but is not explicitly included in the Latin, it is given in square brackets: [...].

There are also a number of occasions where, in order to make the passage read more naturally in English, Latin verbs in the (historic) present tense have been translated as if they were in a past tense.

N. B. The coloured passages in italics are summaries of events to support understanding of the narrative. They are not part of the prescription.

Cupid and Psyche

Apuleius' Metamorphoses ("The Golden Ass") is a Roman novel written in the latter half of the 2nd Century AD, focusing around a character called Lucius, whose reckless curiosity about magic turns him into an ass but one which retains his human mind. After a series of humiliating adventures, Lucius is eventually restored to human form by the Egyptian goddess Isis.

During his time as an ass, Lucius, along with various other animals and humans, is captured by bandits. Lucius overhears an old woman (the bandits' housekeeper) telling a long story, that of Cupid and Psyche, overheard by Lucius in ass form.

Though our Cupid and Psyche story is self-contained, it is also a mythological version of the Metamorphoses' main plot - both Lucius and Psyche find themselves in unpleasant situations because of their curiosity, endure a long period of humiliation and trials, and are finally saved by divine intervention.

Latin		English	Literal Translation
<u>erant</u> in quadam civitate rex et regina. <u>hi</u> tres filias <u>forma</u> <u>conspicuas</u> <u>habebant</u>, sed maiores quidem natu, quamvis gratissima specie, solum tamen dignae laudibus humanis <u>credebantur</u>, at vero puellae iunioris tam praecipua, tam praeclara erat pulchritudo ut non exprimi nec sufficienter laudari sermone humano posset.	5	A <u>There lived</u> in a certain city a king and queen; <u>they had</u> three daughters <u>of conspicuous beauty</u> but indeed the [two who were] older by birth, although <u>of</u> very pleasing appearance[s], were nonetheless only <u>felt</u> [to be] worthy of human praise, but the beauty of the younger girl was truly so remarkable, so magnificent that it could not be expressed nor adequately praised by mortal speech.	<u>There were</u> / <u>these had</u> ... <u>conspicuous in appearance</u> ... <u>with</u> ... <u>were being believed</u>

Latin		English	Literal Translation
multi denique civium et advenae copiosi, quos eximii spectacula rumor <u>studiosa celebritate</u> congregabat, inaccessae formositatis admiratione stupidi et admoventes oribus suis dextram primo digito in pollicem presso <u>ut ipsam prorsus deam</u> Venerem venerabantur religiosis adorationibus. multi longis itineribus <u>atque altissimis</u> maris meatibus ad saeculi specimen gloriosum confluebant. Paphon nemo, Cnidon nemo ac ne quidem Cytheram <u>ad conspectum deae Veneris</u> navigabat; sacra praetereuntur, templa deformantur, pulvinaria proteruntur, caerimoniae negleguntur; incoronata simulacra et arae viduae frigido cinere foedatae. <u>puellae supplicatur</u> et in humano vultu deae tantae numen placatur, et <u>in matutino progressu virginis</u> victimis et epulis Veneris absentis nomen propitiatur, iamque per plateas <u>commeantem</u> omnes frequenter floribus sertis et solutis apprecantur. haec <u>honorum</u> caelestium ad puellae mortalis cultum immodica translatio verae Veneris vehementer incendit <u>animos</u>.	10 15 20	<i>In the end many of the citizens and abundant [numbers of] foreigners, whom the rumour of [this] exceptional sight was bringing together in <u>eager crowds</u>, stupefied in admiration of [her] unapproachable beauty and moving [their] right hands to [their] <u>lips</u> with <u>forefinger</u> pressed to thumb, they were paying honour to [her] as if [she were] the very goddess Venus herself, in pious adoration.</i> <i>Many [people] were converging from long voyages <u>over the deepest</u> passages of sea to the famous sight of [its] age. No-one would sail to Paphos, nobody to Cnidos and not even to Cythera <u>to see the goddess Venus</u>. [Her] sacred rites were overlooked, [her] temples fell into disrepair, [her] couches were trampled underfoot, her ceremonies neglected; [her] statues [were] uncrowned and [her] deserted altars dishonoured with cold ash.</i> <i>It was the girl that <u>people worshipped</u> and the divine power of so great a goddess was appeased in human <u>face</u>, and <u>when the maiden walked about in the mornings</u> the name of the absent Venus was propitiated with sacrificial victims and feasting, and now all [people] frequently prayed <u>[to her] as she walked</u> through the streets, with flowers [both] as garlands and free-flowing. This excessive transfer of heavenly honours to the worship of a [mere] mortal girl, violently inflamed the <u>heart</u> of the real Venus.</i>	<i><u>in a devoted throng</u> ... <u>mouths</u> <u>with first finger</u> <u>as if truly the goddess</u></i> <i><u>and from the deepest</u> ... <u>to the sight of the goddess Venus</u> ... <u>are knocked out of shape</u></i> <i><u>It is worshipped to the girl</u> ... <u>in the maiden's morning progression</u> ... <u>[her] walking</u> <u>hearts</u></i>

Venus, angry that her own beauty has been insulted and that a mortal should be worshipped in this way, orders Cupid to shoot Psyche with an arrow that causes her to fall in love with the most wretched, repulsive and insignificant man in the world. She then departs.

B

Psyche meanwhile although she was very beautiful, was not able to find love. Everyone looked at her and praised her but no one – neither royalty nor ordinary mortal – came to ask for her hand in marriage, even though they loved her. They admired her beauty which seemed to have come from the gods, but they seemed to admire her as a perfectly sculpted statue rather than a real woman. Psyche's two older sisters, who, although beautiful were no match for their sister and whose looks were not famous around the world, became engaged to royal suitors and were soon married. Their younger sister remained at home unmarried, lonely and weeping. She became ill through grief and her spirits were low. She hated her beauty despite everyone else adoring it.

In concern, Psyche's father consults the oracle of Apollo. The god tells him to leave his daughter, dressed as a bride, on a mountain where she will find a husband, albeit a horrifying one. The parents reluctantly obey and abandon their daughter as instructed. After a while, a breeze carries Psyche down into a valley where there is a palace full of beautiful things.

C

You knew from the moment you entered that you were viewing the splendid, shining residence of a god. The ceilings were ivory and supported by golden pillars, the walls were covered with silver sculptures and the floors were mosaic pictures. Walls of solid gold gleamed with their own brilliance so that even at night 5 the house shone like day. Every other feature was of the same magnificence, so you would have thought, rightly, that this was a heavenly palace made for Jove to use on his visits to the world.

As she marvelled at all this wealth and beauty, a mysterious voice spoke to her, though she could see no one there. 10 “Mistress,” the voice said, “why are you surprised at such great wealth? This is all for you. Go to your room, relax and sleep. Why not bathe yourself? We, whose voices you hear but whom you cannot see, are your servants and we shall wait upon you. Afterwards a feast fit for a queen will be served to you. Psyche 15 willingly took their advice and as night fell, she went to bed.

Later that night an invisible stranger visits Psyche and says he is her husband. He visits every night, but Psyche remains unaware of his identity and is never allowed to see him. Psyche misses her sisters so, against his better judgement, he transports them to the palace to comfort her. He tells Psyche that they are allowed to visit again as long as Psyche does not talk about him; if she does, then the immortal child she carries will become mortal. The sisters, jealous of Psyche’s situation, persuade her to murder this man who must be a monster.

Latin		English	Literal Translation
at Psyche relictā sola, nisi quod femina infestis Furiis agitata sola <u>non</u> est, aestui pelagi similis maerendo fluctuat. <u>vespera</u> tamen iam nocti <u>cedente</u> praecipiti festinatione nefarii sceleris instruit apparatus. <u>nox aderat et maritus aderat</u> postque Venerem in altum soporem descenderat.	5	D <i>But Psyche left [all] alone, except that a woman tormented by hostile Furies is <u>never</u> alone, wavered like the swelling of the open sea in her grieving. However <u>when evening</u> now <u>gave way</u> to night, in headlong haste she got ready what was needed [to commit this] wicked crime. <u>Night fell</u> and [her] husband was present, and after [their] lovemaking he had descended into a deep sleep.</i>	<u>not</u> <u>... with evening giving way</u> <u>of the wicked crime</u> <u>... night was present</u>
tunc Psyche, quamquam et <u>corporis et animi</u> infirma, <u>fati</u> tamen <u>saevitia</u> roboratur et prolata lucerna et adrepto gladio <u>sexum audacia mutatur</u>.	10	<i>Then Psyche, although frail both <u>in body and mind</u>, was nonetheless strengthened <u>by cruel fate</u> and, with the lamp brought forth and the sword snatched up, she <u>underwent a change of sex</u> in her boldness.</i>	<u>of body and of mind</u> <u>... by the cruelty of fate</u> <u>... is changed in relation to</u> <u>[her] sex by boldness</u>
sed cum primum <u>luminis oblatione</u> tori secreta claruerunt, videt omnium ferarum mitissimam dulcissimamque bestiam, ipsum illum Cupidinem formosum deum formose cubantem, cuius aspectu lucernae quoque lumen <u>hilaratum increbruit</u> et acuminis sacrilegi gladium paenitebat.		<i>But as soon as <u>the lamp shone clear</u> and the mysteries of [her] marriage bed were made visible, she saw [that her] beast [was] the gentlest and sweetest of all wild beasts, Cupid himself, that handsome god, <u>handsome [too]</u> in his <u>sleep</u>, at the sight of whom even the lamp's light <u>intensified with joy</u> and the sword repented of its sacrilegious edge.</i>	<u>by the bringing up of the</u> <u>lamp</u> <u>... sleeping handsomely</u> <u>... became intense having</u> <u>been gladdened</u>

E

In the light of the lamp, Psyche saw his golden head, covered in glorious locks of ambrosia-soaked hair. The neatly tied strands fell across his rosy cheeks and milk-white neck. They shone so brightly that the light of the lamp seemed dim. Over the winged god's shoulders she saw white feathers glistening **5** like flowers in the morning dew, and though he was resting, soft feathers on the edges of the wings fluttered playfully as though in a breeze. His body was smooth and shining, and no one would have imagined that this was not the child of Venus, so beautiful was he. His weapons – bow, quiver and arrows - **10** appropriate for this great god, lay at the foot of the bed.

Latin		English	Literal Translation
Psyche insatiabili animo rimatur atque pertractat et mariti sui miratur arma, depromit unam de pharetra sagittam et puncto pollicis extremam aciem periclitabunda... pupugit altius, ut <u>per summam cutem roraverint</u> parvae sanguinis rosei guttae. sic ignara Psyche <u>in Amoris incidit amorem</u>. tunc magis magisque cupidine flagrans <u>Cupidinis</u>, <u>prona in eum inhiabat basiis festinanter ingestis</u>. sed dum saucia mente <u>bono tanto</u> fluctuat, lucerna illa sive perfidia pessima sive invidia noxia sive quod tale corpus contingere et <u>quasi</u> basiare <u>et ipsa gestiebat</u>, evomuit de summa luminis sui stillam ferventis olei super umerum dei dextrum. hem audax et temeraria lucerna et amoris vilis famule, ipsum ignis totius deum aduris, cum te scilicet amator aliquis, ut diutius <u>cupitis</u> etiam nocte potiretur, primus invenerit. sic inustus exiluit deus visaque detectae fidei colluvie protinus ex osculis et manibus infelicissimae coniugis tacitus avolavit.		F <i>Psyche with insatiable <u>curiosity</u> examined, handled and marvelled at her husband's weapons, took one arrow out from [its] quiver and [by] testing the outermost point on the tip of her thumb, so that small drops of rose-red blood <u>moistened</u> the top of her skin.</i> 5 <i>In this way Psyche, without knowing [it], fell <u>in love with Love</u>. Then blazing more and more with <u>desire for Desire</u>, bending over him she gazed at him with longing as she <u>smothered him with eager kisses</u>.</i> 10 <i>But while she hesitated, wounded in [her] mind <u>at such marvellous bliss</u>, that lamp, whether through most wicked treachery or noxious jealousy or because <u>it shared her passionate desire</u> to touch and as if to kiss such a [beautiful] body, spewed out a trickle of hot oil from the tip of its light over the right shoulder of the god.</i> 15 <i>Ah, lamp, bold and reckless, worthless servant of love, you scorch the very god of all fire, although no doubt [it was] some lover [who] first invented you, so that he could possess <u>the object of his desires</u> for longer, even by night. Scalded thus the god leapt up and, <u>seeing the vile ruination of his betrayed trust</u>, at once flew silent[ly] away from his most wretched wife's kisses and <u>embrace</u>.</i>	<u>mind</u> <u>the outermost edge</u> <u>... dripped through</u> <u>into love of Love</u> <u>... desire of Cupid</u> <u>... bending forward onto him, she gazed with kisses eagerly poured upon him</u> <u>by such great good</u> <u>... also itself passionately wanted</u> <u>having-been-desired things with the filth of the uncovered trust seen</u> <u>... hands</u>

G

As he flew away, Psyche grabbed his leg and hung, dangling as he soared away through the clouds. She was a piteous addition to his flight. At last, exhausted, she fell to earth, but as she lay there, her divine husband did not desert her. He flew to a nearby cypress tree and from its topmost branches he spoke to her as 5 she wept. "O most innocent Psyche, I came to you today as your husband, against the orders of my mother, who wished me to make you fall in love with a worthless man in a loveless marriage. I can see now how cruel this would have been, and magnificent archer that I am, I shot myself with an arrow of love 10 and made you my own wife, only for you to believe that I was a monster that you had to kill, when I truly love you." Having said this, he abruptly flew away into the sky.

Psyche, shocked, decides to take revenge on her sisters for their cruel advice. She invents a story and visits one of her sisters.

H

“You told me that my husband was a hideous monster, but when I first looked on his face, I saw a wonderful and divine sight: Cupid himself, the son of the goddess Venus, lying there, sleeping peacefully. I gazed at him with great love, but I also felt agonising distress that our relationship could not continue, and 5 while I hesitated, by disastrous misfortune, the blazing lamp I carried dripped oil onto his shoulder. The pain woke him immediately and when he saw that I was armed with fire and sword, he cried: ‘For contemplating such a wicked crime, you must leave my house, take your possessions and depart! I shall 10 now marry your sister!’ (and he spoke your full name). Then he ordered his Zephyr to drive me from his palace immediately.”

Latin		English	Literal Translation
necdum sermonem Psyche finiverat, <u>et illa</u> vesanae libidinis et invidiae noxiae stimulis agitata, fallens maritum, <u>quasi</u> de morte parentum <u>aliquid comperisset</u> , statim navem ascendit et ad illum scopulum protinus pergat et quamvis <u>alio flante vento</u> , caeca spe tamen inhians, 'accipe me,' <u>dicens</u> , 'Cupido, dignam te coniugem et tu, Zephyre, suscipe dominam' saltu se maximo praecipitem ad mortem <u>dedit</u> .	5	I <i>Psyche had not yet [even] finished [her] speech <u>when her sister</u>, stirred up by the goads of insane lust and noxious jealousy, deceiving [her] husband as if she had learned something about the death of her parents, straightaway boarded a ship and proceeded at once to that cliff [edge] and, although <u>a different wind was blowing</u>, she nevertheless gazing in blind hope and <u>calling out</u> "receive me, Cupid, [as] a wife worthy of you, and you, Zephyr, take up [your] mistress," <u>made an enormous headlong jump</u> to [her] death.</i>	<u>and that woman</u> <u>with another wind blowing</u> <u>... saying</u> <u>gave herself headlong with an enormous leap</u>
nec Psyche poenam alterae sororis tardavit. nam <u>rursus</u> <u>errabundo gradu</u> pervenit ad civitatem aliam in qua pari modo soror alia habitabat. <u>nec setius et ipsa</u> fallacia germanitatis inducta et <u>in sororis sceleratas nuptias aemula</u> festinavit ad scopulum <u>inque simile exitium cecidit</u> .	10	<i>Nor did Psyche delay her other sister's punishment. For <u>in her further wanderings</u> she arrived at another city in which the other sister was living in similar fashion. <u>And in just the same way she too</u>, enticed by the pretence of sisterly solidarity, hurried to the cliff <u>to wickedly supplant her sister in marriage</u>, and fell into a similar death,</i>	<u>again with wandering step</u> <u>... nor differently herself too</u> <u>... as a rival into the wicked marriage of the sister</u>

With her sisters now gone, Psyche searches far and wide for her husband who is in Venus' palace, recovering from the oil lamp burn. Venus is furious about the marriage and offers a reward for the girl's capture. Psyche decides to turn herself in, hoping for mercy.

Latin		English	Literal Translation
<u>quam</u> ubi primum inductam oblatamque sibi <u>conspexit</u> Venus, <u>cachinnum extollit laetissimum et qualem</u> frequenter solent iratae, caputque quatiens et ascalpens aurem dextram 'tandem,' inquit, 'dignata es socrum tuam salutare? an potius maritum, qui <u>tuo vulnere</u> periclitatus est, ut interviseres venisti? sed <u>esto segura</u>, iam enim excipiam te ut bonam nurum decet.' <u>his editis involat eam vestemque plurifariam diloricat capilloque discisso et capite quassato</u> graviter affligit.	5	J As soon as Venus <u>saw Psyche</u>, brought in and presented to her, she <u>burst into ecstatic cackling just as angry</u> [women] are frequently accustomed [to do] and, shaking [her] head and scratching [her] right ear, she said "have you at last seen fit to come to visit your mother-in-law? Or rather did you come so that you could secretly inspect [your] husband who has been put at risk <u>by the wound you caused?</u> But <u>don't worry</u>, for I shall now receive you [in such a way] as befits a good daughter-in-law." <u>She uttered these words then</u> she flew at her, ripped her clothes into many pieces <u>then tore her hair apart, battered her about the head and struck her grievously.</u>	<u>saw which woman</u> <u>... raises up cackling very happy and such as</u> <u>by your wound</u> <u>be unworried</u> <u>...with these [words] uttered</u> <u>and with the hair having been torn apart and the head having been battered</u>

K

Venus in all her malicious jealousy set Psyche a series of tasks with the lie that she must prove her worth through hard work – these tasks were impossible to complete without help from natural or divine forces and were intended to cause her death. The last of these tasks was to gain access to the Underworld and request a box containing some of Proserpina's beauty. Psyche was granted this but her curiosity only caused her more trouble as she tried to enhance her own beauty by stealing a drop, and promptly sank into a deep sleep. **5**

Cupid, now recovered from his burn and missing his wife, escaped from his mother's palace and flew on wings, restored by his long rest in search of Psyche. He discovered her in a deep sleep, wiped away her sleep with great care and returned it to the box where it belonged. Then he woke her with a harmless wound from his arrow and said: "Look how your curiosity has landed you in more trouble, poor Psyche. Now be quick and complete the task my mother set you. I'll deal with everything else." With that he leapt into the air and Psyche quickly took the box to Venus. **10**
15

Meanwhile, Cupid, pale and devoured by love, was so concerned by his mother's cruel behaviour that he flew on swift wings to Jupiter's palace in the heights of heaven and pleaded with the king of the gods to allow him to lead Psyche in formal marriage. **20**

Jupiter agrees to Cupid's request and calls an assembly of the Gods in which he announces his decision to allow Cupid and Psyche to marry.

Latin		English	Literal Translation
itaque Psyche <u>convenit in manum Cupidinis et maturo partu</u> nascitur illis filia, quam Voluptatem nominamus.		<i>And so Psyche <u>was joined in marriage to Cupid and when her pregnancy had reached full term</u>, a daughter was born to them, whom we call Pleasure.</i>	<i><u>came together into the hand ... with the childbirth ripe</u></i>