

Eduqas Support Materials: Student Booklet

Eduqas GCSE Latin Component 3A

Latin Literature (Verse) Virgil: Hercules and Cacus

For examination in 2026 – 2027

Using this Document

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.

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

Hercules and Cacus
Virgil, Aeneid 8 152-336

Virgil's epic poem the Aeneid was written, probably at the emperor Augustus' request in the 20s BC. It tells the story of the Trojan nobleman, Aeneas who fled from Troy and after many adventures, arrived in Italy where he was destined to settle and be the forefather of the Roman people. The arrival of the Trojans in Italy sparked a war and Aeneas needed to have allies. He was told by the god of the river Tiber, to go to king Evander and he was received kindly by the king and his son Pallas, who were in the middle of a festival in honour of Hercules. Aeneas told the king that he already had a strong connection to him as their fathers were related through their common ancestor, Atlas, and he asked Evander to help him in the war against the Italian tribes.

Section A

Aeneas finished speaking and Evander had been watching him closely as he talked. Then he replied thus in a few words: “Bravest of Trojans, how gladly I welcome you and recognise you. How I remember the words of your father, and the voice and face of the

5 great Anchises! I recall when Priam, the son of Laomedon, was heading to the kingdom of Salamis to see his sister, Hesione, he went straight on to visit the cold realm of Arcadia. At that time, I was in the first flush of youth, and I marvelled at the Trojan leaders, and I marvelled at the son of Laomedon himself, but Anchises walked

10 taller than them all. My mind was ablaze with a young man’s enthusiasm to speak to him and to join my hand to his in friendship. I approached him and eagerly led him to the walls of Arcadian Pheneus. As he was leaving, he gave me a marvellous quiver full of Lycian arrows, a cloak interwoven with gold thread and two

15 golden bridles which my son, Pallas, now has. Therefore, the hand of friendship which you seek has been joined in a treaty, and when dawn comes upon the earth tomorrow, I shall be glad to send you happily on your way with reinforcements and resources. Meanwhile, since you have come here as friends, celebrate

20 wholeheartedly with us these annual sacred rites which it would be wrong to put off and now you begin to feel at home at the tables of your allies.”

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Section B

When he had said this, Evander ordered the food and drink that had been removed to be replaced; he himself showed the Trojan men to their grassy seats and took Aeneas, as his most important guest, to a couch with a shaggy lionskin as a cushion and
5 entertained him on a maple-wood throne. Then some hand-picked young men and the priest of the altar competed with each other to serve the roasted flesh of bulls, piled the baskets with well-made bread, the gift of Ceres, and they poured out Bacchus' wine. Aeneas and his Trojan young men feasted together on the whole
10 side of oxen and sacrificial entrails. After their hunger had been relieved and their desire for food had been satisfied, king Evander spoke: "These solemn rites, this established feast and this altar to such a great divine spirit have not been imposed upon us by some empty superstition and an ignorance of our ancient gods: we
15 perform this sacrifice, my Trojan guest, because we were saved from dreadful dangers and we repeat it as a well-deserved honour.

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Section C

- 4 hic spelunca fuit, vasto summota recessu,
5 semihominis Caci facies quam dira tenebat
6 solis inaccessam radiis; semperque recenti
7 caede tepebat humus, foribusque adfixa superbis
8 ora virum tristi pendebant pallida tabo.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | hic - <i>here</i>
spelunca, -ae, f. - <i>cave</i>
sum, esse, fui - <i>be</i>
vastus, -a, -um - <i>huge, vast</i>
summoveo, summovere,
summovi, summotus - <i>reach</i>
<i>back, stretch back</i>
recessus, -us, m. - <i>recess, space</i> | | inaccessus, -a, -um - <i>inaccessible</i>
radius, -i, m. - <i>ray</i>
semper - <i>always</i>
recens, -entis - <i>fresh, recent</i> |
| 5 | semihomo, -inis, m. - <i>semi-</i>
<i>human, half man and half beast</i>
Cacus, -i, m. - <i>Cacus (giant son of</i>
<i>Vulcan)</i>
facies, -ei, f. - <i>form, shape</i>
qui, quae, quod - <i>who, that</i>
dirus, -a, -um - <i>hideous, dreadful</i>
teneo, tenere - <i>hold, occupy</i> | 7 | caedes, -is, f. - <i>blood, gore</i>
tepeo, tepere - <i>be warm</i>
humus, -i, f. - <i>ground</i>
foris, -is, f. - <i>door</i>
adfigo, adfigere, adfixi, adfixus - <i>fix</i>
superbus, -a, -um - <i>proud</i> |
| 6 | sol, solis, m. - <i>sun</i> | 8 | os, -oris, n. - <i>mouth, face, head</i>
vir, viri, m. - <i>man</i>
tristis, -e - <i>sorrowful, grim</i>
pendeo, pendere - <i>hang</i>
pallidus, -a, -um - <i>pale</i>
tabum, -i, n. - <i>decay</i> |

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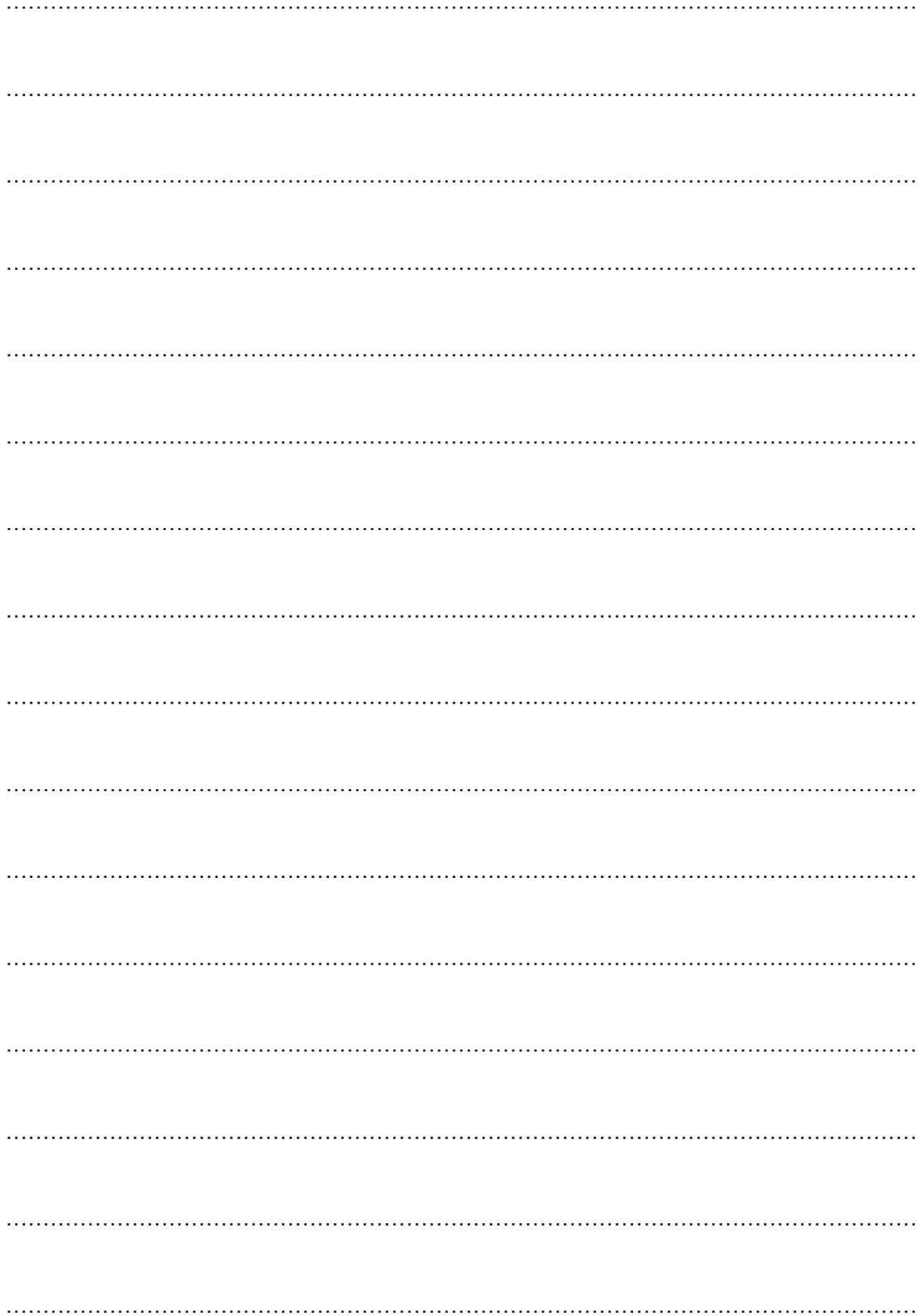
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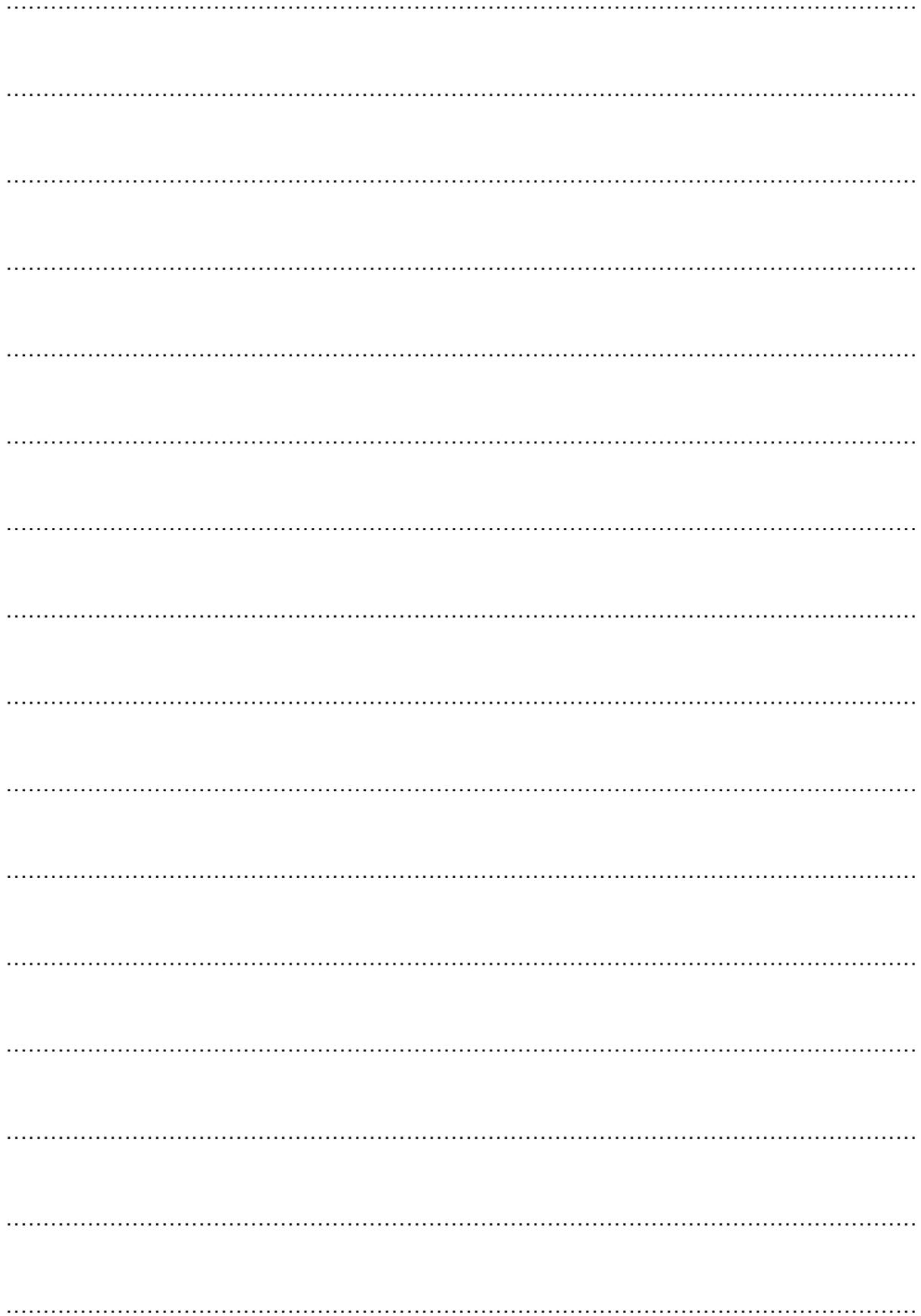
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Section D

- 16** ecce furens animis aderat Tirynthius omnemque
17 accessum lustrans huc ora ferebat et illuc,
18 dentibus infrendens. ter totum fervidus ira
19 lustrat Aventini montem, ter saxea temptat
20 limina nequiquam, ter fessus valle resedit.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>16 ecce - <i>look!</i>
furo, furere - <i>rage</i>
animus, -i, m. - <i>fury, anger</i>
adsum, adesse - <i>be present</i>
Tirynthius, -a, -um - <i>Hercules (hero from Tiryns)</i>
omnis, -e - <i>all, every</i></p> <p>17 accessus, -us, m. - <i>approach, access point</i>
lustrare, lustrare - <i>scan, survey</i>
huc - <i>to this place</i>
os, -oris, n. - <i>face, mouth</i>
fero, ferre, tuli, latus - <i>bring, carry, bear, tolerate</i>
et - <i>and</i>
illuc - <i>there, to that place</i></p> <p>18 dens, dentis, m. - <i>tooth</i>
infrendo, -ere - <i>grind, gnash</i></p> | <p>ter - <i>three times</i>
totus, -a, -um - <i>all, the whole</i>
fervidus, -a, -um - <i>burning, seething</i>
ira, -ae, f. - <i>anger</i></p> <p>19 lustrare, lustrare - <i>examine</i>
Aventinus, -a, -um - <i>Aventine, ... belonging to Mount Aventine</i>
mons, montis, m. - <i>mountain</i>
ter - <i>three times</i>
saxeus, -a, -um - <i>rocky, stoney</i>
tempto, temptare - <i>attempt, try</i></p> <p>20 limen, -inis, n. - <i>doorway</i>
nequiquam - <i>in vain</i>
ter - <i>three times</i>
fessus, -a, -um - <i>tired, exhausted</i>
valles, -is, f. - <i>valley</i>
resideo, residere, resedi - <i>sit down</i></p> |
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Section F

- 1 ergo insperata deprensum luce repente
- 2 inclusumque cavo saxo atque insueta rudentem
- 3 desuper Alcides telis premit omniaque arma
- 4 advocat et ramis vastisque molaribus instat.

- 1 ergo - *and so*
insperatus, -a, -um - *unexpected*
deprendo, deprendere, deprendi,
deprensus - *catch, seize*
lux, lucis, f. - *light*
repente - *suddenly*
- 2 includo, includere, inclusi, inclusus - *trap, catch*
cavus, -a, -um - *hollow*
saxum, -i, n. - *rock, stone*
atque - *and*
insuetus, -a, -um - *unaccustomed, strange*
rudo, rudere - *bellow, roar*

- 3 desuper - *from above*
Alcides, -ae, m. - *Hercules,(descendant of Alceus)*
telum, -i, n. - *missile, weapon*
premo, premere - *attack*
omnis, -e - *all*
arma, -orum, n. pl. - *weapons*
- 4 advoco, advocare - *summon*
et - *and*
ramus, -i, m. - *branch*
vastus, -a, -um - *huge, vast*
molaris, -is, m. - *millstone*
insto, instare - *harass, press upon*

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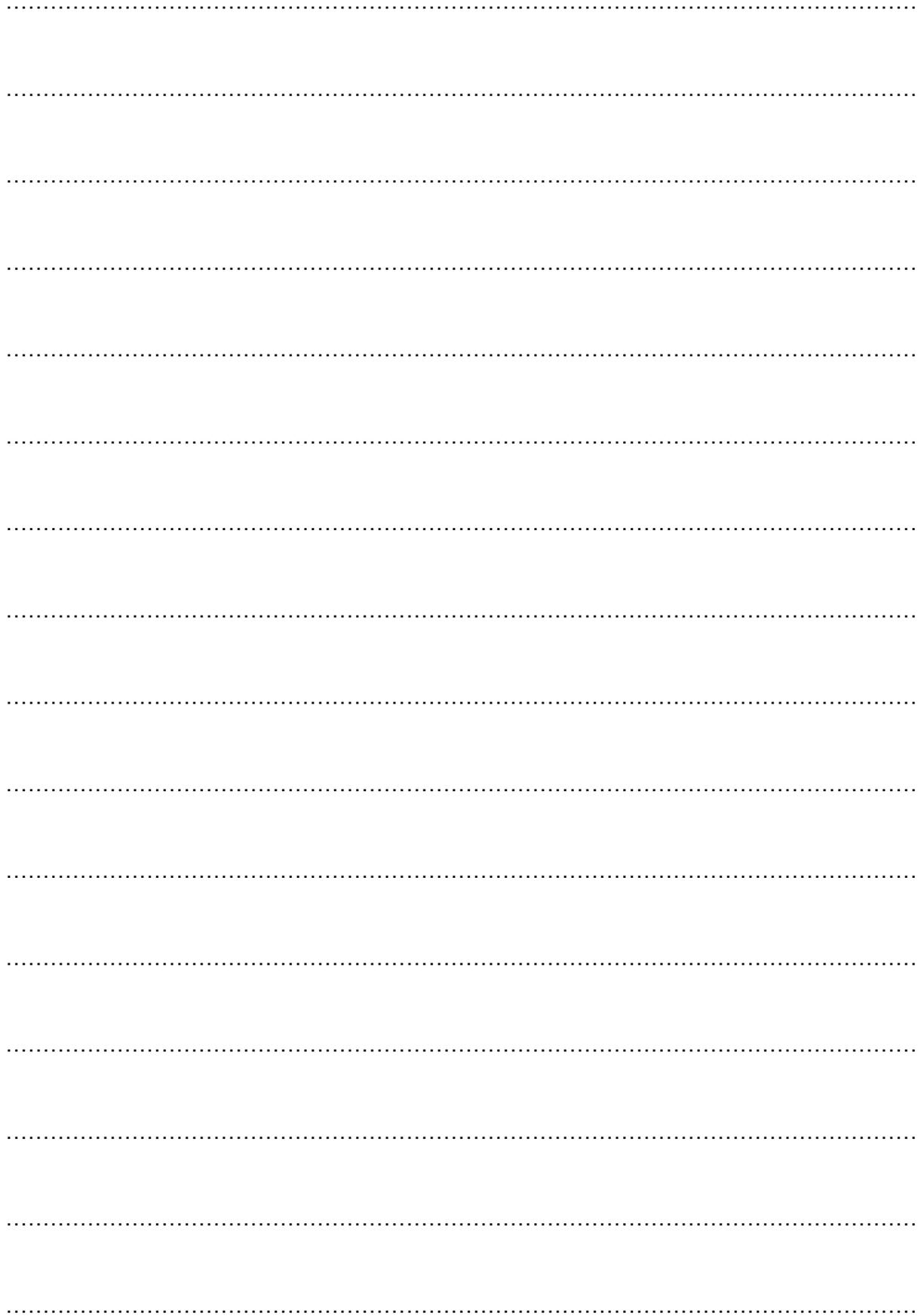
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Section F

- 5 ille autem, neque enim fuga iam super ulla pericli,
6 faucibus ingentem fumum (mirabile dictu)
7 evomit involvitque domum caligine caeca,
8 prospectum eripiens oculis, glomeratque sub antro
9 fumiferam noctem commixtis igne tenebris.

- 5 ille, illa, illud - *he, she, it, that, they*
autem - *however*
neque - *nor, not, no*
enim - *indeed*
fuga, -ae, f. - *escape*
iam - *now*
supersum, superesse, superfui - *remain*
ullus, -a, -um - *any*
periculum, -i, n. - *danger*
6 fauces, -ium f.pl. - *throat*
ingens, -entis - *huge, vast*
fumus, -i, m. - *smoke*
mirabilis, -e - *amazing*
dico, dicere, dixi, dictus - *say, relate*
7 evomo, evomere, evomui, evomit - *vomit, belch*
involvo, involvere, involvi, involutus
envelop, wrap up

- domus, -us, f. - *home, house*
caligo, -inis, f. - *fog*
caecus, -a, -um - *blind*
8 prospectus, -us, m. - *view, sight*
eripio, eripere - *snatch away*
oculus, -i, m. - *eye*
glomero, glomerare - *gather*
sub + abl.- *under, within*
antrum, -i, n. - *cave*
9 fumifer, fumifera, fumiferum -
smoke-filled
nox, noctis, f. - *night*
commisceo, comiscere, comiscui,
comixtus - *mix together*
ignis, -is, m. - *fire*
tenebrae, -arum, f. pl. - *darkness,*
gloom

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Section G

From that day, Hercules has been honoured, and generations after him have joyfully celebrated this day. Potitius the first founder with the house of Pinarii as guardians of the sacred rites of Hercules, set up in the grove this altar which is always called by us the

- 5** Greatest Altar and will always be the greatest. Therefore, young men, in appreciation of such great and praiseworthy actions, wreath your hair with leaves and hold out your cups in your right hands. Call upon him who is the god of us all and offer him wine willingly.” He stopped speaking and then the green and silver
- 10** leaves of Hercules’ poplar tree covered his hair, hanging down on all sides, and a sacred cup filled his right hand. Soon, everyone was happily pouring libations and praying to the gods.

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Section H

- 6 tum Salii ad cantus incensa altaria circum
7 populeis adsunt evincti tempora ramis,
8 hic iuvenum chorus, ille senum; qui carmine laudes
9 Herculeas et facta ferunt: ut prima novercae
10 monstra manu geminosque premens eliserit angues

- 6 tum - *then*
Salii, -orum, m.pl. - *Salii (priests of Mars)*
ad + acc. *in order to*
cantus, -us, m. - *singing, song*
incensus, -a, -um - *burn*
altaria, -ium, n. - *altars*
circum + acc. - *around*
- 7 populeus, -a, -um - *belonging to poplar trees*
adsum, adesse - *be present*
evincio, evincire, evinxi, evinctus - *wreathe*
tempus, -oris, n. - *brow (of the head)*
ramus, -i, m. - *bough*
- 8 hic, haec, hoc - *this, these*
iuvenis, -is, m. - *young man*
chorus, -i, m. - *chorus*
ille, illa, illud - *that*
senex, senis, m. - *old man*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which, that*
- carmen, carminis, n. - *song*
laus, laudis, f. - *praiseworthy deed*
- 9 Hercules, -a, -um - *of Hercules, Herculean*
et - *and*
factum, -i, n. - *deed, action*
fero, ferre, tuli, latus - *bring, carry, ut - how*
primus, -a, -um - *first*
noverca, -ae, f. - *stepmother*
- 10 monstrum, -i, n. - *monster*
manus, -us, f. - *hand*
geminus, -a, -um - *twin*
premo, premere - *grasp*
elido, elidere, elisi, elisus - *throttle, strangle*
anguis, -is, m. - *snake*

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Section H

- 14 "tu nubigenas, invicte, bimembres
15 Hylaeumque Pholumque, manu, tu Cresia mactas
16 prodigia et vastum Nemeae sub rupe leonem.
17 te Stygii tremuere lacus, te ianitor Orci
18 ossa super recubans antro semesa cruento;

- 14 tu, tui - *you (sing)*
nubigena, -ae, f. - *cloud-born*
invictus, -a, -um - *unconquered*
bimembris, -e - *centaur (two-formed ie half-man, half-beast)*
- 15 Hylaeus, -i, m. - *Hylaeus (a centaur)*
Pholus, -i, m. - *Pholus (a centaur)*
manus, -us, f. - *hand*
tu, tui - *you (sing)*
Cresius, -a, -um - *Cretan (from the island of Crete)*
macto, mactare - *slay*
- 16 prodigium, -i, n. - *monster*
et - *and*
vastus, -a, -um - *huge*
Nemea, -ae, f. - *Nemea (region of Greece)*
sub - + abl. *under, beneath*
- rupes, -is, f. - *rock, cliff*
leo, -onis, m. - *lion*
- 17 tu, tui - *you (sing)*
Stygus, -a, -um - *Stygian, of the Styx ... (river in the Underworld)*
tremo, tremere, tremui - *tremble*
lacus, -us, m. - *pool, lake*
tu, tui - *you (sing)*
ianitor, -oris, m. - *guardian*
Orcus, -i, m. - *Orcus (another name for the Underworld)*
- 18 os, ossis, n. - *bone*
super - *on, on top of*
recubo, recubare - *lie (down)*
antrum, -i, n. - *cave*
semesus, -a, -um - *half-eaten*
cruentus, -a, -um - *bloody*

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Section I

After the divine rites were performed, everyone returned to the city. The king weighed down by age, kept Aeneas and his son beside him and shortened the journey with varied conversation. Aeneas was amazed, constantly looking around, taking in the places, and joyfully

5 asking questions to hear about the history of the place. Then, king Evander, the founder of the citadel of Rome said: "These woods were once inhabited by native fauns and nymphs and a race of men born from the hard wood of oak trees, who had neither established customs nor civilisation, nor did they know how to yoke bulls or

10 gather wealth or look after what they had gathered; but fruit trees and the harsh diet of the hunt sustained them. Then it was that Saturn first came down from heavenly Olympus, fleeing the weapons of Jupiter, an exile from his lost kingdom. He gathered from the high mountains this untamed and scattered people, gave them laws, and

15 decided that the place should be called Latium, because he had lain hidden safely within its borders. Men call this the Golden Age for he ruled his people kindly and in peace, until gradually, a worse and basely coloured age took its place along with the madness of war and the desire for possessions. Then bands of Ausonians and

20 Sicanian tribes arrived, and the land of Saturn changed its name many times. After that there were kings, and Thybris, harsh and huge in size, after whom we Italians named the river Tiber, and the old river Albula lost its name. I had been driven from my homeland and was seeking the furthest reaches of the ocean when all powerful

25 Fortune and Fate which no one can escape, set me in this place driven by fearsome warnings from my mother the nymph, Carmentis and the authority of the god, Apollo."

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