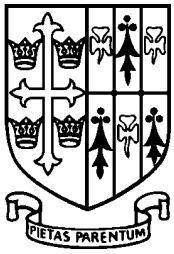
ST EDWARD'S
OXFORD



16+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

For entry in
September 2017

LATIN

Time: 1 hour

Candidates Name: ……

Instructions to Candidates:

Dictionaries may be used with this paper.
Please indicate on script whether you use one.

Answer all the questions in Sections A, B & C.
Translate only where asked & then on alternate lines.

Pliny the Younger, in a letter to Lucius Licinius Sura, tells Two Ghost Stories.

Section A. Translate this passage on alternate lines. [30 marks]

Pliny discusses with Sura the evidence for the existence of ghosts.

olim Plinius cum amico in horto villae rusticae sedebat. Plinius amicum rogavit num phantasmata esse et propriam figuram habere putaret an ex metu humano imaginem accipere. amicus negavit se in eis credere. Plinius igitur 'olim,' inquit, 'ubi Curtius Rufus in Africa miles, pauper obscurusque erat, ei visa est femina, maior quam viva et pulcherrima. Rufus perterritus erat.
femina tamen "noli timere," inquit, "tibi periculum non erit."'

Plinius tamen amico ridenti respondit, 'audi, mi amice, ea quae deinde Rufo acciderunt. femina enim eadem Rufo dixit eum Romam tribus mensibus rediturum esse: "ibi", umbra inquit, "a principe laudaberis. mox iterum in Africam revenies, sed in bello morieris."'

his verbis Plinii auditis amicus non risit, quod intellexerat omnia quae phantasma dixisset vero accidisse!

phantasma, -atis (n) – ghost

proprius, a, um – own

imago – inis (f) – form, appearance

Curtius Rufus – Quintus Curtius Rufus*, a self-made man who became governor of the Roman province of Africa and possibly also identifiable as the author of a life of Alexander the Great.*

Section B. Read the next part of the story and answer the 2 sets of questions. (Vocabulary previously given is not repeated here.)

Pliny continues with his second ghost story of how Athenodorus deals with a haunted house in both a philosophical and pragmatic way.

nocte, ubi omnes in quadam villa habitantes dormire cupiebant, vox audiebatur. mox per murum villae venit umbra senis. tam graves catenas portabat ut ei non facile esset ambulare. oculi eius tam pleni sanguinis erant ut vix videre posset. deinde cum senex magna voce clamavisset, omnes perterriti e hac villa fugerunt. itaque tandem cum omnes timerent, dominus villam vendere constituit. sed ullo eam emere nolente, villa igitur tota seni relicta est.

multos post annos philosophus Graecus, nomine Athenodorus, villam libenter emit. cum nox esset, Athenodorus in atrio villae sedebat. servis "mihi placet," inquit, "hic manere. nam epistulae mihi scribendae sunt. nolite timere. di homines fortes adiuvant." postquam servi inviti discesserunt, se labori dedit. subito catenas audivit, senem vidit. tam attonitus erat cum eum manu aliquid ostendere videret. "o senex," inquit, "mihi videris rem gravissimam narrare velle. nisi tibi parebo, laborem facere non potero. necesse est mihi te sequi."

deposito igitur stilo lumineque capto surrexit. cum ad hortum pervenissent, senex subito evanuit. Athenodorus, ut locum iterum inveniret, saxum deposuit et in villam rediit. mane tamen servos prope saxum effodere iussit. ossa, quae ibidem inventa erant, publice sepelivit. umbra senis numquam rursus rediit.

catena, -ae f. – chain
aliquid ostendo, -ere – summon, beckon
mane (adv) – in the morning
effodio, -ere – dig
ibidem (adv) – in the same place

Comprehension Questions

1 What was the problem with sleeping in the villa referred to (line 1) 2

_____

_____

2 What followed the start of the sound? (lines 1-2) 2

_____

_____

3 What effect did the chains have on the 'senex'? (lines 2-3) 2

_____

_____

4 Why did he find it hard to see? (line 3) 2

_____

_____

5 What was the outcome of the nightly visitations? (lines 3-4) 2

_____

_____

6 Suggest the best translation for 'cum' (line 4) in the context of the passage. 1

_____

7 What did the villa owner decide to do, what prevented this from happening and who was left with the house? (lines 5-6) 3

_____

_____

8 Who was Athenodorus? (line 7) 1

_____

9 Explain the arrangements he made with his slaves one night? (lines 8-10) 3

_____

_____

_____

10 Suggest an idiomatic translation of *se labori dedit.* (line 10) 1

_____

11 How does Athenodorus interpret the old man's gesture in line 11 to mean & why does he feel he must follow him? (lines 12-13) 5

_____

_____

_____

_____

12 What 2 things does Athenodorus do before going outside? (line 14) 2

_____

_____

13 Explain what happens in the garden that night & the next day. (lines 14-16) 5

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

14 Why does the ghost never return? 2

_____

_____

Grammar Questions

1 From Section B, write down 1 example of each of the following: 7

i a present participle _____

ii a present deponent infinitive _____

iii a superlative adjective _____

iv a verb in the imperfect subjunctive _____

v an impersonal verb _____

vi a verb in the pluperfect subjunctive _____

vii a gerundive of obligation _____

2 From Section B, write out & translate 1 example of the following: 10

i an ablative absolute: _____

_____

ii a temporal clause: _____

_____

iii a result (consecutive) clause: _____

_____

iv a purpose (final) clause: _____

_____

v a conditional clause: _____

_____

[50 marks]