

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS  
A LEVEL  
H443/02  
LATIN  
Prose Composition or Comprehension  
INSERT FOR SECTION A  
FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2018:  
Morning  
MODIFIED ENLARGED 24pt**



Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions on the question paper.

As the revolt against him spreads through the western provinces, the emperor Nero desperately tries to find a way out of the crisis.

nuntiata interim etiam ceterorum exercituum defectione, litteras sibi prudenti traditas concerpsit, mensam evertit, duos scyphos magni pretii in terram deiecit. tum veneno in aurea pyxide celato transiit in hortos Servilianos ubi, fidissimis libertorum Ostiam emissis ad classem praeparandam, tribunos centurionesque praetorii hortatus est ut socii in fuga essent. sed aliis dubitantibus, aliis aperte recusantibus, varie in animo agitavit utrum Parthos supplex peteret, an prodiret in forum et veniam scelerum a civibus precaretur ac, nisi animos eorum flexisset, oraret ut praefectura Aegypti sibi concederetur. 5 10

sic cogitatione ad posterum diem dilata, media fere nocte excitatus prosiluit e lecto. ut cognovit stationem militum discessisse, servos misit circum amicos et, quia nihil a quoquam renuntiabatur, domus eorum complures ipse adiit. verum portis omnium clausis et respondente nullo in cubiculum rediit, unde custodes iam diffugerant, direptis stragulis amotaque etiam pyxide veneni. deinde Spiculum gladiatorem vel quemquam alium, cuius manu periret, quaesivit et nemine reperto 'ergo ego' inquit 'nec amicum habeo nec inimicum?' procurritque, quasi praecipitaturus se in Tiberim. 15 20

Suetonius, 'Nero' 47 (adapted)

## **NAMES**

**Servilianus, -a, -um**

**Ostia, -ae (f)**

**Parthi, -orum (m pl)**

**Aegyptus, -i (f)**

**Spiculus, -i (m)**

**Tiberis, Tiberis (m)**

**Servilian, of Servilius**

**Ostia (the main port for Rome)  
the Parthians (Rome's enemies  
in the East)**

**Egypt**

**Spiculus**

**the river Tiber**

## **WORDS**

**defectio, -onis (f)**

**prandeo, -ere, prandi, pransus**

**concerpo, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus**

**scyphus, -i (m)**

**venenum, -i (n)**

**pyxis, -idis (f)**

**praetorium, -i (n)**

**supplex, -icis (m)**

**venia, -ae (f)**

**praefectura, -ae (f)**

**stragulum, -i (n)**

**revolt**

**I eat lunch**

**I tear up, tear into pieces**

**drinking cup**

**poison**

**a box**

**the Praetorian Guard (which  
guarded the emperor)**

**a suppliant (someone who  
makes a humble request)**

**forgiveness**

**governorship**

**a sheet, a bed-cover**



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