

Latin Language & Literature



Information for
students and parents

LATIN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Building on what you have learned at GCSE, you will become able to translate with growing confidence, to appreciate literary technique and to develop your own skills of literary criticism through close reading and discussion of prose and verse texts. You will also learn to collect relevant evidence and to present an argument based on that evidence. Thus, the course develops skills needed in a wide range of careers demanding the ability to analyse and assess. By studying Latin in the Sixth Form you will learn to evaluate Latin poetry and prose in its original form. You will also learn about the historical and cultural background of the works studied and will see just how influential both the Latin language and the culture of the Roman Empire have been for us today.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 7 Latin is the standard entry requirement for A-level Latin.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Since the course in Latin comprises language work, literary appreciation and some work on historical background, it will help you in a number of other subjects, especially English, History and Modern Foreign Languages. It will also help you in your study of the Sciences where attention to detail and the ability to analyse carefully are appreciated. An A-level course in Latin provides a sound academic training and therefore will be an advantage for anyone wishing to apply for a university place in very competitive subjects such as English, Law and Medicine.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

As a subject, Latin requires a rigorous approach to texts on account of the logical structure of its grammar. However, it combines with this the flexibility required of a human language. As such, the subject is recognised as providing a sound training for university and careers. You may study Latin at university on its own or in combination with Classical Greek under the degree title Classics. You may also combine it with another subject such as English, a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Archaeology or Classical Civilisation. University Careers Officers report that graduates in Classical Languages find employment in an enormous variety of fields: some vocational (Research, Teaching, Librarianship, Museum work), many in the public sector (Civil Service, Local Government, Social Work) and most in the private sector (Managerial, Law, Accountancy, Banking, and Information Technology). Regardless of career choice, a qualification in Latin sets you apart from other candidates.

WHY STUDY LATIN?

The study of Latin, even for a short while in your academic career, will improve your understanding of English and the Romance languages, and hence your language and communication skills. By learning to “read slowly” in the tradition of classical philology, you will get excellent insight into Latin’s beauty, dynamics, limitations, and strengths. For all its practical value (intellectual, cultural, and personal), improving your understanding of Latin can also be one of the most challenging, exciting and inspiring undertakings of your life.

Carpe diem!

COURSE CONTENT

Exam Board: OCR

Year 1:

Latin Language

You will become familiar with the language of authors of the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD and be examined by passages for translation into English.

Latin Verse and Prose Literature

The focus of the module is on two authors. The sections studied will be taken from Tacitus’ “Annals I” and Virgil’s “Aeneid VIII”. Each author is studied in detail, including their literary techniques and the social and cultural milieu in which they wrote. Students will gain an appreciation for each Latin text.

Year 2:

Latin Verse

You will develop your understanding and appreciation of Latin verse through reading prescribed texts. Selections are taken from such authors as Virgil and Ovid. We will also read unseen Latin verse more widely.

Latin Prose

You will develop your understanding and appreciation of Latin prose through reading prescribed texts. Selections are taken from such authors as Seneca, Cicero and Tacitus. You will also develop your unseen prose translation through wider reading. You will be assessed on both the prescribed text and unseen translation.



Tum primum nostri Cacum videre timentem
turbatumque oculis: fugit ilicet ocior Euro
speluncamque petit, pedibus timor addidit alas.
Ut sese inclusit ruptisque immane catenis
deiecit saxum, ferro quod et arte paterna
pendebat, fultosque emuniit obice postis,
ecce furens animis aderat Tirynthius omnemque
accessum lustrans huc ora ferebat et illuc,
dentibus infrendens.

Virgil, 8.222-230

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