

As a result of the feedback received during the consultation and accreditation process of the new GCSE Latin specification, the specification has been revised in a number of key aspects. We are excited by the possibilities and flexibility of the final product and believe that it provides a firm basis for learners of Latin at GCSE level. The main changes between the draft and final versions are detailed below:

The unit content for A401 and A402

This has been made more distinct by introducing a particular theme for each: the passages on A401 now have a mythological theme or are based on stories drawn from Roman domestic life. A401 is now the mandatory language unit for the Short Course. The grammar and syntax for this unit has been reduced and the vocabulary lists will be 200 words for FT and 300 words for HT. A402 is designed to be taken at the end of the GCSE course of study and the grammar and syntax is comparable with that of the legacy GCSE 1942 specification. The vocabulary lists will be 350 words FT and 500 words HT. The passages will be based on stories from history. A402 now has a comprehension element. A402 places a greater emphasis on translation (60%) than unit A401 (40%). The vocabulary lists for A401 and A402 will be published as part of the support materials in December 2008. The option to translate from English to Latin had to be removed to achieve comparability across optional sections of the exam paper.

Style of questions on the Literature units A403 and A404

These changes were made mainly to questions that were considered to rely too heavily on a knowledge of the literature in English rather than in Latin. There are no English translations provided alongside the Latin passages on the Higher Tier papers. On the Foundation Tier papers, an English translation has been retained and printed next to the passage for some questions, e.g. the literary analysis 10 mark questions. However, candidates at both tiers must refer to the Latin passage in order to score the highest marks. The marking level descriptors in the mark schemes for A403 and A404 provide further details.

Materials for A405

Minor changes have been made in order to make some shorter questions more specific.