

Introduction to GCSE Latin

Why study Latin?

This subject gives you the opportunity to study the language and literature of ancient Rome, reading the works of authors such as Virgil, Ovid and Horace. You will experience at first hand elements of the culture, language and social and political life of the Roman civilisation which has inspired many later generations. As well as being exciting and inspiring, this course will help you develop analytical skills and intellectual flexibility which will be useful in a wide range of jobs or in further study.

You will study:

- The Latin language; you learn to read Latin texts in their original language;
- Literature set texts, by authors such as Virgil, Ovid, Pliny, Tacitus and Horace;
- Background topics, including the Roman Army, Daily Life, the City of Rome, Women, Roman Britain and Roman Religion.

You will learn:

- How to develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally, including an awareness of the relationship between Latin and the languages of today;
- How to appreciate different cultures;
- How to read texts in Latin;
- How to read and appreciate Latin literature in its cultural context and in its original language;
- How to communicate clearly and effectively.

Assessment:

There is a choice between two levels of entry for this examination: Foundation and Higher. At Foundation level the grades available are G-C. At Higher level the grades available are D-A*. You take Papers 1 and 2, and **two** of Papers 3, 4, 5 or coursework (but not both Paper 5 (Roman Life topics) and coursework).

Paper 1 (Language 1: 1 hour 15 minutes)

This paper consists of a linked set of Latin passages for translation and comprehension.

Paper 2 (Verse literature: 1 hour 15 minutes)

You have a choice between two verse texts. This paper consists of two passages of Latin with comprehension, evaluation and translation questions.

Paper 3 (Language 2: 45 minutes)

At Higher Tier you choose either translation into English or from English into Latin. At Foundation tier there is a passage of Latin to translate into English.

Paper 4 (Prose literature: 45 minutes)

You have a choice between two prose texts. This paper consists of two passages of Latin with comprehension, background and evaluation questions.

Paper 5 (Roman Life: 45 minutes)

You choose one of two Roman Life topics. This paper requires short answers to questions based on stimulus passages or illustrations and a choice of essays.

Coursework

You produce either one piece of maximum 2000 words or two pieces of maximum 1000 words each. Your writing must be based on one of the Roman Life Topics. Private candidates may not enter for the coursework option.