



A Level Latin

Why study Latin?

Some of the greatest works of literature, history, philosophy and science were written in Latin. Moreover, the legacy of the Roman world - its language, literature and culture - is all around us; from the influence of Latin on languages such as English, French, Spanish and Italian, to its presence in our legal and political systems; the influence of Roman culture and society on western literature, from Shakespeare to JK Rowling; and so much more.

Latin is a demanding A Level subject - this is one of many reasons why it is valued so highly by universities and employers alike - but it is also a very rewarding one. It cultivates precision of thought, develops students' appreciation of their own language and culture, and fosters a deeper understanding of and engagement with literature through the study and critical appreciation of the set texts. Forget about learning a language simply to pass vocabulary tests or to translate grammar sentences. By reading these texts in the original language, you will be able to see inside the minds of Roman poets, orators, historians and/or philosophers. Your privileged entry into this fascinating world is what makes studying Latin at A Level so rewarding and we hope that you will learn to share at least some of the excitement and enthusiasm that your Classics teachers feel for this subject.

Entry requirements

Normally students are advised to have attained a grade 7 (8 or above preferred) in their Latin GCSE in order successfully to pursue the subject at A Level.

What does the course involve?

Latin Language:

This is very much a continuation of what you have studied up til now in Latin. There is not a huge amount more grammar to learn - after all, you have already successfully read Tacitus and Virgil in the (albeit lightly adapted) original at GCSE level and they didn't hold back to make it accessible for Year 11 students a couple of thousand years later... At A Level, the passages for translation will be taken from two specified authors, namely Ovid and Livy. You will also start to learn to translate from English into Latin, but there is no compulsion to do this in the A Level examination itself.

Latin Literature:

You will study one prose set text and one verse set text in Year 12 and one additional prose text and one additional verse text in Year 13. In 2025-2026, the texts on offer include Cicero *Pro Caelio*, a spirited defence speech on behalf of a young man accused by his former lover, Clodia, of murder of the Egyptian envoy and, consequently, trying to poison her in order to keep her quiet and Virgil *Aeneid* book II, which talks about the story of the Trojan horse and the destruction of Troy, which led to Aeneas fleeing his homeland with refugees in order to eventually found Roman race.

Exam Board

OCR H443

How is the course assessed?

The A Level qualification comprises four externally assessed written examinations:

Unseen translation	1 hour 45 minutes.	33% of total A Level
Prose composition or comprehension	1 hour 15 minutes.	17% of total A Level
Prose literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level
Verse literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level



What can an A Level in Latin lead to?

Latin is obviously an advantage for anyone wishing to read Classics at university but is also a subject valued in its own right by admissions tutors and employers. It is well respected for its intellectual integrity and goes well with both arts and science subjects. Previous A Level Latin students have gone on to read a wide variety of subjects at university, including Classics, Modern Languages, History, Medicine, Biological Sciences, Theology, English Literature, Law, and Music, to name but a few!

What skills will be developed in the Latin A Level course?

The Latin A Level course promotes the development of a wide range of skills that are highly sought-after by both universities and employers. Language work encourages analytical and problem-solving skills, while the challenge of conveying nuance and finding the *mot juste* promotes intellectual flexibility and a sensitive appreciation of language. Study of the literature reinforces these skills while also developing your ability to appreciate the literary techniques, styles and genres of the prescribed authors and your ability to articulate an informed response to the material studied, using a range of appropriate evidence to construct coherent, logical and persuasive arguments and evidence-based judgements.

Latin is taught jointly at Loughborough High School and Loughborough Grammar School.

