

# LATIN



## Course content

In addition to the further language studied, students are also required to read original prose and verse works of various Latin authors. For the examinations in 2024, the students will read selections of either one or two of the following texts: Cicero's legal defence speech, 'Pro Cluentio' and/or Tacitus' 'Annals 4', featuring the Emperor Tiberius. For the verse they will read selections of two of the following texts: Virgil's Aeneid XII and/or a selection of poems by Catullus and Ovid's Heroides I, III and VII. These texts give a great taste of ancient Roman literature written by some of the greatest and most influential writers the world has known.

## Assessment

1. **Unseen Translation**  
100 marks / 33% of A level Written 1 hour 45 minute paper
2. **Prose Composition or Comprehension** (for this paper, there is the option of either translating a passage of English into Latin or of answering comprehension questions in English on an unseen passage of Latin prose) 50 marks / 17% of A Level

Written 1 hour 15 minute paper

3. **Prose Literature**  
75 marks / 25% of A level Written 2 hour paper
4. **Verse Literature**  
75 marks / 25% of A level Written 2 hour paper

## Complementary subjects

A Level Latin goes well with any subject. Its linguistic elements go well with MFLs; its emphasis on literature, history and philosophy go well with English Literature, History and Philosophy and its logical and computational aspects complement the Sciences and Mathematics.

## Skills

Students will need a good GCSE in Latin (grade 7 or above) in order to study this course but an enthusiasm for the subject and willingness to learn are the most important requirements. During the course they will develop the following skills:

- Develop an appropriate level of competence in the language studied
- Acquire the language skills which enable learners to read literary texts, both prose and verse, in the original language
- Develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the literary, historical and cultural features of the ancient world
- Acquire the literary skills which enable learners to read ancient literature, both prose and verse, in its original language with appropriate attention to literary techniques, styles and genres
- Apply analytical and evaluative skills at an appropriate level which show direct engagement with original texts in the ancient language
- Make an informed personal response to the material studied
- Begin to develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally
- A Level Latin also encourages learners to develop research and analytical skills that will empower them to become independent learners.

## What next?

It is well known that a Latin A Level is highly appealing to admissions tutors and employers, who recognise the broad depth of study and the many transferrable skills gained from this challenging but rewarding subject. Typically, Classics\* graduates go on to work in a broad range of jobs, including law; banking and finance; senior Civil Service and academia and teaching. Classics graduates are also among the fastest into meaningful employment within six months of leaving university.

*\*The title of 'Classics' is given to a degree studying Latin and/or Greek language(s), literature, history and philosophy.*

## Extension

There are opportunities for extension: The North West Latin and Greek Reading Competition is a popular event. We are also hoping to take our students on trips to various museums and study days. Also, the department runs a residential trip to one of Italy, Greece or Southern France biennially.

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