

# LATIN

The GCSE course first develops an ability in the use of language through translation of passages of Latin into English and answering comprehension questions from other passages of Latin; also, translation of simple sentences from English into Latin and secondly, an appreciation of Latin literature through the study of Roman authors (e.g. Catullus, Ovid and Virgil and the writers and Historians Tacitus and Pliny). Within this general framework reference is continually made to the influence of Latin on English and other modern languages and comparisons are drawn between many aspects of Roman Civilisation and our own.

Latin is normally chosen by those already studying it and who have been recommended as being able to complete the GCSE course successfully.

Latin is an excellent subject to develop skills and communication in written form. Rome's literature dealt with the universal themes of love, hate, religion, war, family and so forth; in this respect it is timeless. Pupils who enjoy modern languages should seriously consider following GCSE Latin to underpin their understanding and abilities in languages, which have drawn heavily on Latin.

The examination will consist of three papers: Language; (50%) Literature (Verse) (25%) and Literature (Prose) (25%). The Language papers will include unseen translations of Latin into English and comprehension exercises as well as a small section on Latin grammar or 3 sentences to translate from English into Latin. The Literature papers will consist of questions and translations on the passages already studied in class. For examination in 2023 the set texts are likely to be "Sagae Thessalae", a supernatural tale of the witches of Thessaly and Book 6 of the Aeneid, one of the most famous and engaging sections of Virgil's epic poem, all about the Roman/Greek underworld and the characters who dwell in it.

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