

Revising GCSE Latin

The Latin GCSE consists of the following **four papers**:

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| • Paper 1: Language | 1 hour 15 mins | 30% of the final mark |
| • Paper 2: Verse Literature | 1 hour 15 mins | 30% of the final mark |
| • Paper 4: Prose Literature | 45 mins | 20% of the final mark |
| • Paper 5: Roman Life Topics | 45 mins | 20% of the final mark |

VERSE LITERATURE SET TEXT: *Cambridge Latin Anthology*

- Nisus and Euryalus
- How many kisses?
- Can she be faithful?
- Conflicting emotions
- Contradictions
- Ovid picks a favourite at the races
- Pyrrha
- Alcyone fears for her husband
- Love will not let the poet sleep

PROSE LITERATURE SET TEXT: *Cambridge Latin Anthology*

- The power of the Druids
- Their education
- Their religion
- Boudica's rebellion

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE PAPER 1?

- Remember that you will have to do unseen comprehension and unseen translation in this paper. You need to concentrate on revising **vocabulary** and **grammar**.
- For a complete list of the prescribed vocabulary, go to the OCR website at: www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_13553_sm_1_gcse_paper_03_voc_list.xls
- When **revising vocabulary** find the method that works for you, and stick to it. For example, write out words that you just cannot remember, and concentrate on these — don't waste your time revising words you already know. Flash cards make a simple but effective self-tester.
- When **revising grammar** it is probably better to consolidate what you are already familiar with than to try to learn a lot of new stuff at this late stage.

- For the absolute essentials, follow the [Latin Grammar](#) link. For advice on untangling sentences, follow the [Latin Sentence Structure](#) link.
- An online programme for testing Latin vocabulary is available at:
http://www.cambridgescp.com/ws2_tlc/vocab/ocrgcse/OCR_GCSE_Higher_vocab.html
Follow the link to the vocabulary testers, making sure you ask for OCR GCSE Higher.
- Finally, remember that translating Latin is a skill, and like all skills it must be practised. If you want practice passages, just come along to the Classics Room: we will be happy to oblige.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN PAPER 1

- When answering comprehension questions, always answer in full sentences.
- Observe the limits of any quotations from the text: information from outside the quoted Latin will receive no credit.
- When doing unseen translation, stick close to the Latin: accuracy is more important than good English style.
- **Never leave a blank** in the unseen translation: it has to be wrong. If you get stuck on a word, at least put down something that sounds right.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR PAPERS 2 AND 4?

- Be organised, and sort out your revision materials **now**. If you need further copies of translations and notes, ask us in the Classics Department Room.
- Make yourself thoroughly familiar with the translations and notes. Many questions simply require knowledge of what is going on in the passage. Questions about a writer's use of language are harder, but you will find plenty of discussion of language in our notes, and these will help you develop useful lit crit skills.
- Revise the set text material gradually over a period of time. Start early to avoid the need to have a 'set text weekend' just before the exams.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN PAPERS 2 AND 4

- Look carefully at the passage the examiners have given you in order to identify it accurately.
- Answer comprehension questions accurately. If your answers are fuzzy, they may not get all the marks available.
- Always answer in full sentences.
- If you are asked to translate a few lines of the set text, get the translation word perfect. Examiners mark these 'seen' translations very strictly, and they are usually worth a lot of marks — so get them right.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR PAPER 5?

- There is a lot of material to get through, so start your revision early.
- Make sure you have all the books and notes you need before the end of term. If you need new copies, ask us in the Classics Room.
- You will find a lot of help with this material if you follow the [Roman Life Topic](#) link.