

Revising A2 Latin

The Latin A2 exam consists of the following **two papers**:

- Latin Verse 2 hours 50% of the final A2 mark
- Latin Prose 2 hours 50% of the final A2 mark

SET TEXT FOR LATIN VERSE

Virgil *Aeneid* I 1-38, 50-123, 157-179, 223-360, 387-392, 418-438

The rest of the book should be read in translation.

SET TEXT FOR LATIN PROSE

Tacitus *Annals* XIV 1-16

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE LITERATURE QUESTIONS?

- 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.
- Read your translations and notes/commentaries very carefully. Remember, though, that your notes may not have all the 'right answers' on the passage that comes up in the exam. You will need to give a detailed response to some aspect of it, but applying sound principles of literary criticism is as important as making the 'correct points'.
- Practise answering context questions under timed conditions.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE VERSE UNSEEN?

- The passage will be taken from Ovid (elegiacs).
- To prepare for this paper you need to concentrate on revising **vocabulary** and **grammar**. There is no prescribed vocabulary for A2, but it would certainly be a good idea to revise the AS vocabulary. This can be found as an Excel spreadsheet in the section *Support materials* at <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/classics/latin/documents/>
- For essential grammar, follow the link to the **Latin Grammar** page. This page has been designed primarily for GCSE, and the information has been kept to a useful minimum. For a complete grammar, use the Latin Grammar published by Oxford University Press. Copies are available from the Classics Room.
- The **Latin Sentence Structure** page has some basic advice on analysing sentences. Again, it is aimed at GCSE candidates. For more advanced syntax, Colebourn is good.
- As part of the verse unseen question, you will have to scan hexameters. For help with this, follow the link to the **Latin Scansion** page.
- The key to success is practice. If you need material, just ask us in the Classics Department room.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE PROSE COMPOSITION QUESTION?

- Revise the most important **constructions** very carefully. This means going through Colebourn. You should have some useful outline notes in your notebook.
- For a complete list of the required grammar and syntax, go to page 93 of the PDF document at http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_9611_kd_gce_spec.pdf
- Revise **prose vocabulary** from the English-Latin sheets you have been given over recent weeks. These contain useful words and phrases.
- Remember that you are aiming to write clear and accurate Latin. A few golden rules apply here:
 - Try and keep your Latin simple: if it is simple, it is likely to be accurate.
 - As far as possible, write Latin that sounds like real Latin. For example, avoid abstract nouns ('the size of') by using indirect questions ('how large it was').
 - Latin makes heavy use of the ablative absolute. Where appropriate, use this construction in your proses.
 - Use a variety of constructions. For example, purpose can be expressed with *ut* + subjunctive, *qui* + subjunctive, *ad/causa* + gerund/gerundive.
 - Think carefully about word order. As a rule, subjects come before objects, and verbs come at the end of clauses/sentences.