

Revising GCSE Latin

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

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| • Language 1 (Mythology and domestic life) | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |
| • Language 2 (History) | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |
| • Prose Literature | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |
| • Verse Literature | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |

PROSE LITERATURE SET TEXT: *Cambridge Latin Anthology*

- Germanicus and Piso
- Pythius
- Clodia

VERSE LITERATURE SET TEXT: *OCR Latin Anthology*

- Caesar crosses the Rubicon
- Praying for profit
- A sign from heaven
- The shield of Aeneas

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR PAPER 1 AND PAPER 2?

- 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, covering both Paper 1 and Paper 2, go to the PDF document on the OCR website at http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_29924_sm_gcse_unit_a402_voc_list_h.pdf
- 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 link to the **Latin Grammar** page. For advice on untangling sentences, follow the link to the **Latin Sentence Structure** page.
- 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 AND PAPER 2

- 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 PAPER 3 AND PAPER 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 PAPER 3 AND PAPER 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.