

## Revising GCSE Latin

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

- |                              |                |                       |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| • 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:  
[http://www.ocr.org.uk/Data/publications/key\\_documents/L\\_GCSE\\_Latin\\_Specification\\_FIRST\\_Examination\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Data/publications/key_documents/L_GCSE_Latin_Specification_FIRST_Examination_2007.pdf)  
The vocabulary for the language paper starts on page 35. Ignore the vocabulary list for Paper 3 that starts on page 47 — you are not taking this paper.
- 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. For example, 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 - [http://www.clsb.org.uk/downloads/examinations/revision\\_info/Latin\\_Grammar.pdf](http://www.clsb.org.uk/downloads/examinations/revision_info/Latin_Grammar.pdf). For advice on untangling sentences, follow the Latin Sentence Structure link - [http://www.clsb.org.uk/downloads/examinations/revision\\_info/Latin\\_Sent\\_Structure.pdf](http://www.clsb.org.uk/downloads/examinations/revision_info/Latin_Sent_Structure.pdf).
- An online programme for testing Latin vocabulary is available at: [http://www.cambridgescp.com/ws2\\_tlc/vocab/ocrgcse/OCR\\_GCSE\\_Higher\\_vocab.html](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.
- Software for testing Latin vocabulary and grammar is available free from the Classics Department for use at home. Open the GCSE Latin folder, click on the **Virgil** icon, and follow the instructions.
- 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 - [http://www.clsb.org.uk/downloads/examinations/revision\\_info/Roman\\_Life\\_Topic.pdf](http://www.clsb.org.uk/downloads/examinations/revision_info/Roman_Life_Topic.pdf).