



Wakefield Girls' High School
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Wakefield

Course Guide

A-level Latin

Technical Information

A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
Latin	H443	OCR

A-level Examinations:

Name	Method of Assessment	
Unseen Translation	Examination 1 hour 45 mins	100 marks 33% total A-level
Prose composition or comprehension	Examination 1 hour 15 mins	50 marks 17% total A-level
Prose Literature	Examination 2 hours	75 marks 25% total A-level
Verse Literature	Examination 2 hours	75 marks 25% total A-level

WGHS Senior School

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Latin

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

A very good pass at GCSE is required and an interest in the past, especially in classical literature.

Why Latin?

- It develops a logical approach to study and logical thinking
- It is a fine base for the study of many modern languages
- It includes some of the finest literature ever written
- It develops a deep understanding of language and its nuances
- Reading the works of real Romans in the original language gives the closest possible insight into the culture of a society that continues to profoundly influence our own.

– It's fun!

Who should study Latin?

- Anyone who enjoys languages
- Anyone who is interested in the Roman world
- Anyone with a very good grade at GCSE Latin

Course Description

The two year A-Level course shares some features with the GCSE course and therefore has a reassuring familiarity: there are two language components and two literature (prose and verse) components.

There is not a great step up from GCSE to the beginning of the A-Level for students who have acquired a very thorough grasp of Latin vocabulary and grammar. New grammar items are added in a similar way to GCSE, and the learning of set texts follows in the same manner as at GCSE: translation, consideration of style and content, as well as discussion of motives and literary qualities are at the core of lessons.

A-Level Course Content

The language components consist of:

1. unseen translation worth 33% of the total A-Level
2. comprehension or prose composition (English to Latin translation) worth 17% of the total A-Level.

The literature components consist of:

1. Prose set text worth 25% of the total A-Level and requiring study in depth of two Latin texts along with additional text in translation to put the Latin section into context. The set texts are usually selections of the works of Cicero, the greatest lawyer, political orator and philosophical writer of the Roman Republic; and Tacitus, who wrote the history of the Roman Empire in the first century AD.

2. Verse set text worth 25% of the total A-Level and requiring study in depth of two Latin texts along with additional text in translation to put the Latin section into context.

The set texts are usually selections of Virgil's great epic poem the Aeneid, about the struggles of Aeneas, the founder of the Roman people; Ovid and Horace, two poets writing at the beginning of the Roman Empire; and Catullus from the late Republic whose explicit writing style has often shocked readers.

All four components are tested by written examinations.

Further details of the course can be obtained from the Classics teachers and from the OCR website www.ocr.org.uk

Use of Course and Qualifications

With A-level Latin you will have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of skills throughout including developing competence in the language, recalling, collecting and analysing information acquired. You will be able to appreciate and understand the literature and the context in which it is written. You will learn how to interpret information, communicate your findings in different ways, and identify and develop the links between different parts of the subject.

Classics, Latin and combinations of these, with Ancient History and Classical Civilisation, are offered by universities. They can be studied as a joint degree with virtually any subject including Mathematics, Music, Modern Languages, English, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Economics and Art.

Classicists are prized for their logical minds, attention to detail, sensitivity and academic abilities.

There are many career opportunities in Teaching, Research Journalism, Computing, Business, Finance, Law – in fact virtually any field where such qualities are valued. "Perhaps the single most important quality for a senior executive is the ability to communicate clearly and succinctly. I can think of no better way to learn these skills than by the study of Classics." *Sir Anthony Cleaver, former chair of IBM, Head of UK Atomic Energy Authority.*



Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: Classics

Taking Latin for A-level was definitely the right choice for me. I fell in love with the language. Nothing can beat that feeling when you translate a passage of work, and you can understand it, just as they would have done thousands of years ago. I also found that, with Latin, the transition between GCSE and A-level was much easier for me than with my other subjects.