Latin GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Latin is a challenging but rewarding GCSE, widely respected by top universities. At K.E.S. we follow the OCR syllabus, which involves a balance of language and literature.

In Year 9 we build on the vocabulary and language work of Years 7 to 8. We work at developing a solid foundation in the language as well as knowledge of the context of the Roman world through a study of Republican Rome.

By the Mid-GCSE Mock Examination in Year 10 students should be confident with the language paper, based on the prescribed vocabulary lists and grammar. After the mock examinations we begin a study of Latin prose literature, reading lightly adapted versions of texts by authors like Caesar, Cicero, Pliny or Tacitus. These set texts are examined alongside the language in the Year 11 mock examinations.

We then begin to study Roman poetry in the original Latin. Students develop their skills in translating and analysing the language as well as their knowledge of the history and culture of the ancient world. The text for study is usually a section of Virgil's Roman Epic, the *Aeneid* which tells the story of Aeneas' escape from Troy and arrival in Italy.

GCSE Overview:

There are three final examinations for Latin GCSE encompassing both language and literature.

- Latin Language (1 hr 30 mins) – students will be expected to answer questions about passages of Latin which they have not seen before (one passage based on a story from Roman myth and one based on an event in Roman history), answer a small number of questions based on the grammatical structure of the language or translate some short sentences into Latin, and translate a passage into English.
- Latin Prose Literature (1hr) – students will be expected to answer questions related to the prose text which we have read together in class. These may be short comprehension questions, translation questions or longer questions relating to the style of the author.
- Latin Verse Literature (1hr) – like the prose exam, students will be expected to answer questions related to the poetry we have read in class. Again, these may be short comprehension questions, translation questions or longer questions relating to the style of the author.

Breakdown:
In the final examination, marks are awarded as follows:
- Latin language: 50%, Prose Literature: 25%, Verse Literature: 25%