

## Latin and Greek A Levels

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### **Awarding Body: OCR**

Students wanting to study Latin at A Level should have at least a grade 7 in GCSE Latin in order to take this subject in the Sixth Form.

### **Course Outline**

Latin A Level builds on the skills and linguistic knowledge acquired at GCSE. Students are examined on their ability to translate from Latin into English and their understanding and appreciation of selected works of literature read in the original language. Popular authors studied include Cicero, Caesar, Livy, Ovid and Virgil. Reading is designed to develop linguistic understanding, a knowledge of myth, history and culture and an appreciation of literary style. There is an option of translation from English into Latin.

### **Assessment**

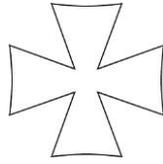
Candidates sit the four units of the course at the end of Year 13. Assessment is by written examination. The language papers examine linguistic ability through unseen translation (Language 01 – 100 marks) and comprehension or prose composition (Language 02 – 50 marks). The literature papers tests critical and essay writing skills. One 2 hr paper focuses on a prose literature (03 – 75 marks) and the other on verse literature (04 – 75 marks).

### **The texts for examination in 2020 are:**

#### **Prose texts (03):**

##### **Cicero, Philippic II**

Cicero, Rome's most famous master of rhetoric, was embroiled in the complex struggles for power in the late republic. After Caesar's assassination, Antony emerged as one of the leading figures in Rome. Cicero attacks him viciously in these speeches. It was in revenge for these excoriating attacks that Antony had Cicero murdered and displayed his head in the centre of Rome; Antony's wife is said to have stabbed the tongue of the man who had attacked her husband with her brooch. For background to this turbulent period, Robert Harris' trilogy 'Imperium, Lustrum and Dictator' or the HBO Rome series provide a graphic introduction.



## **Tacitus Histories 1**

Following the death of the emperor Nero, Rome fell into a short period of civil war which is closely and vividly documented by the bitter historian Tacitus. This has become known as The Year of the Four Emperors because in AD69 Galba, Otho Vitellius and finally Vespasian each ruled as emperor of Rome. The BBC drama 'I Claudius' based on the novels by Robert Graves gives a powerful and dramatic introduction to the end of the Julio-Claudians, setting the stage for Tacitus' Histories.

## **Verse texts (04):**

### **Ovid Amores and Heroides**

This selection of poems by the poet Ovid, who wrote during the reign of Augustus, give an idea of the wit and brilliance of golden Latin literature at its height. Some of his poems explore the nature of love through Ovid's own persona, others are 'love letters' exchanged between some of the great mythical heroes and heroines of mythology, like Jason and Medea or Theseus and Ariadne.

### **Virgil, Aeneid XI**

We will study the whole of Book XI of this epic poem, partly in translation, partly in Latin. In this book war has broken out between Aeneas and his Trojans and the Italians living in the area around the future site of Rome. The Trojans now have the upper hand and the Italians begin to wonder about the wisdom of remaining at war with so commanding a hero. Two young warriors, the handsome Turnus and the warrior maiden Camilla continue to offer resistance. Virgil's beautifully crafted and brilliant narrative is fully experienced through the original Latin.

## **Greek**

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Enrichment Greek can lead to a GCSE, AS or A2 qualification, depending on previous experience. Those who might be interested in making an Oxbridge application to study Classics are strongly advised to take Greek.

The texts for 2020-21 are Homer's *Iliad*, Book 18, extracts from Euripides' *Medea*, Herodotus' account of the battle of Marathon and Plato's *Phaedo*, all studied in the original Greek.

Please ask Miss Affleck for further details.