



DIXONS  
SIXTH FORM  
ACADEMY

# SUMMER WORK

**A LEVEL  
LATIN**

STUDENT NAME:

20  
25



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# About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to the best of their ability in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

**Deadline = the first Latin lesson.**

You should bring written evidence that you have spent about 10 hours working on this. Although you should attempt to complete the tasks to the best of your ability in the time available, some of the tasks are open ended and I encourage you to pursue what currently interests you most. Section A (Vocabulary) is much the most useful for building up learning momentum for the start of term. If you do it well, even if it is the only task you properly attempt, your teacher will be very pleased.

The work handed in should be:

- **handwritten** where appropriate in black or blue ink on A4 lined paper
- written in full sentences with **no copying and pasting** from external sources
- have all compulsory tasks completed
- have your full name on each sheet
- multiple sheets should be connected together

This booklet also contains significant additional information and a range of optional tasks. I encourage you to explore all the tasks, including the optional ones, to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

In order to complete the summer homework effectively, you will need access to the following:

- The internet
- Access to a public library
- A black or blue pen
- A quiet space to work
- Time to dedicate to your studies

## Welcome to Latin

**What is Latin?**

Latin is the dead language spoken and written by the Romans two millennia ago. This course develops advanced competence in Latin language skills alongside a sensitive and analytical approach to Latin literature. The texts studied as part of the A level include a wide range of genres including the historian Tacitus' accounts of the excesses of the emperors, Ovid's erotic love poetry, Virgil's epic heroes, Apuleius' prototype for Beauty and the Beast, Caesar's bloodthirsty conquests, Cicero's political & legal oratory and Nepos' account of the life of Alexander the Great.

### **Why students choose Latin**

Combined with the fact that few subjects are more inherently fascinating than the alien yet unnervingly relatable Romans, our students understand that university admissions tutors and FTSE 100 companies love to snap up successful Latinists. The intellectual catalyst provided by Latin is the main reason why it has traditionally formed an essential part of a complete western liberal education. The opportunity to study a society in its entirety via the original language is an almost unique offering. This presents a potent mix of interdisciplinary mental exertion that lends itself enviably to the cultivation of transferable skills in both logic and an appreciation of humanity. This is as important as ever in our uncertain world of AI with its excess of readily available information of questionable utility. Rapidly changing employability requirements and opportunities mean that rather than what you know the key is instead how well you can assimilate and manipulate new information to reach answers and solve only recently acknowledged problems. Study of Latin makes its students chameleonic in the best sense; socially accepting and more academically flexible. At the same time, it also cultivates the ability to see to the heart of what is important and what can be ignored.

### **What the course covers**

#### **Unit 1 and 2: Latin Language**

Learners build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures through reading and studying prose and verse texts in Latin. Learners study texts written by a range of prose authors and the verse unseen author to develop linguistic competence.

#### **Unit 3 and 4: Latin Literature**

Learners study two Latin Prose Literature set texts in depth and two Latin Verse Literature sets texts in depth. Learners also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken.

The complete specification can be viewed on the OCR website:

<https://ocr.org.uk/Images/220734-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-latin-h443.pdf>

We also offer AS Latin over two years as an alternative for those who do not want to commit to the full A level course over two years.

### **What students can do with this course**

Graduates with Latin are secure in the knowledge that their discipline develops many of the transferable qualities which employers are looking for – intellectual rigour, communication skills, analytical skills, the ability to handle complex information and, above all, a breadth of view which few other disciplines can provide. To quote from a statement by R.B. Reid, former Chairman of

Shell UK, "The wonders of Classics [Latin and Classical Greek] are as good a preparation for management as the discipline of Economics." The evidence suggests that in practice a classical qualification is at least as good a preparation for employment as a qualification in any other Arts subject. Classicists enjoy an enormous variety of careers, the most popular being Financial Work (29%), Buying / Marketing / Selling (17%), and Administration / Operational Management (14%) (figures from the Universities' Statistical Record). Or, like the linguistic classicist Boris Johnson, you could become Prime Minister.

### How this course is assessed

All written exam papers:

• Unseen Translation	105 mins	100 marks.	(33%)
• Prose Composition or Comprehension	75 mins	50 mark	(17%)
• Prose Literature	120 mins	75 marks	(25%)
• Verse Literature	120 mins	75 marks	(25%)

### Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website. It should be noted that Latin is a challenging subject and, especially since we teach it from scratch, has a steep learning curve. In all likelihood, you will have a very strong academic profile. You will also be committing to a block and a half of lessons each week to enable us to get through the course material.

Often, Classics, including Latin, being a relatively niche subject with an elitist reputation because it is not often taught in state schools and colleges, is left off lists of 'recommended' or 'desired' subjects for most degree courses. Don't be deceived. There are few subjects with so broad an application in later life and, crucially, university admissions tutors and employers know this full well. Careers regularly pursued by students of A level Latin include:

- accountancy and finance
- local and national government
- law
- medicine
- museums, theatres and art centres
- police
- publishers
- school teachers
- university lecturers and researchers

There are various rankings of university Classics courses (including those that allow or even require a focus on one or both ancient classical languages) but Leeds and Manchester regularly feature highly alongside less local universities such as Nottingham, UCL, Durham, St Andrews and Warwick. Dixons Sixth Form have had success in recent years in supporting students to make successful Oxbridge applications, both for linguistic Classics and other subjects.

Recent evidence suggests that there is a skills gap within the **local labour market** and their workforce. This means that there is a gap between the skills an employee has and the skills he or she actually needs to perform a job well. The skills that are most often required by the local labour market include

a range of 'soft skills'. These skills can be developed by studying A-Level Latin, and include: Communication, Project management, Team work, Organisation, Attention to detail, Planning, Research skills, Creativity and Problem solving.

You may be aware that Bradford has been awarded Capital of Culture 2025. This means that the city can expect an increase in investment, bringing new jobs and opportunities. Furthermore, the study of Latin can help develop skills that will be useful in the industries that we are seeing emerge within Bradford; including Education, Heritage and Tourism, as well as the more obvious high paying City jobs, like law, civil service and finance.



Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses. They can help students keep their options open when choosing a degree and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A-level in a facilitating subject when you apply.

Facilitating subjects are:

- biology
- chemistry
- english
- geography
- history
- maths
- modern and classical languages
- physics

### Links to key information:

The full OCR specification can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/220734-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-latin-h443.pdf>

A guide to Classics related careers from the Classical Association:

<https://classicalassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Outreach-Video-No-Subtitles-Small-for-TCA.mp4>

And one example of many university websites:

<https://classics.unc.edu/undergraduate-2/why-study-classics/>

A link to the Labour Market Report 2021:

<https://futuregoals.shorthandstories.com/lmireport/>





# Summer Work Tasks

Section A: Vocabulary

Section B: Open University Course: Getting Started on Classical Latin

Section C: Cambridge Latin Course Online Resources

Section D: Legonium

Section E: Latin News



## Section A: Vocabulary



The single best way to get ahead with your A level Latin studies and make the transition more manageable when college starts is to learn some words in advance.

There are several places you could find vocabulary lists. Have a quick look at all three and then pick one to focus on:

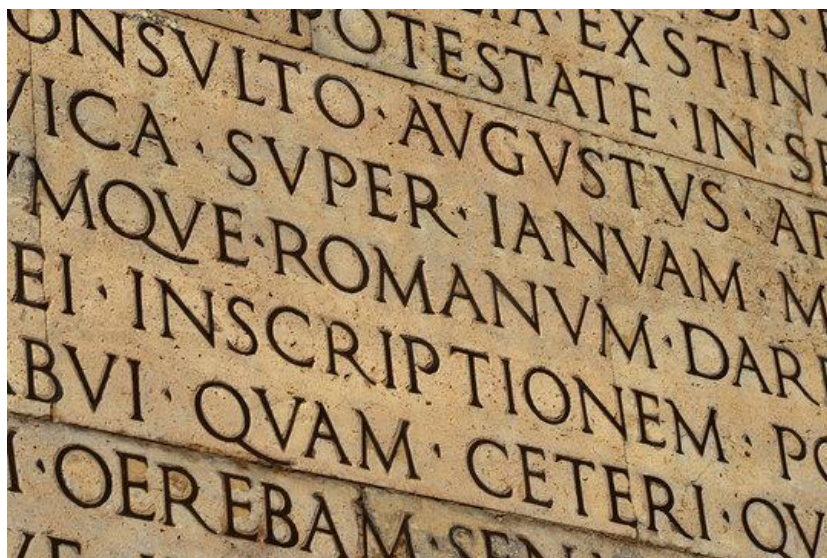
- 1) The GCSE Latin defined vocabulary list: Thorough but not particularly user friendly – good if you are happy to write them out for yourself eg into a vocab book or flash cards  
<https://ocr.org.uk/Images/221512-gcse-latin-j282-defined-vocabulary-list-and-restricted-vocabulary-list.pdf>
- 2) Jerry Toner 'Latin Key Words': A cost (£10) and incomplete details for individual words but easier to read and ordered very sensibly.  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Latin-Key-Words-Vocabulary-Comprehensive/dp/0906672694>
- 3) Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/search?query=latin-gcse-vocabulary&type=all>

Do not worry about trying to learn them all! If you manage 10%, great. If you manage 20%, wonderful. The more you manage, the more enjoyable you are likely to find the first few weeks of the A level. Aiming to add no more than 20 new words a day to your repertoire is a sensible limit. Everyone learns vocabulary differently. Please use whatever method works best for you. Try this for ideas:  
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/ten-ways-learn-new-words-language-learner>.

We will cover all these words again together next year in a variety of ways, including cycling and recycling through them using formal quizzes.

A week before term begins, **please commit to a section of your chosen vocabulary list for informal testing in the first week.** Revise it to the best of your ability. For example, you might choose all the words in the GCSE list starting with the letter A, B and C, or the first 10 sections (200 words) of Jerry Toner's book.

## Section B: Open University Free Course: Getting Started on Classical Latin



Make a start on the Open University course: Getting Started on Classical Latin

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/getting-started-on-classical-latin/content-section-0?intro=1>

The course is for university students, so don't worry if you struggle to understand everything that is covered. However, it's a great way to start exploring the Latin language, if you've never had the chance to study it before. If you are enjoying it and it is making some sense, keep going for as long as you want. If it gets too confusing, just stop. Latin grammar is a lot easier when a teacher is there to help you see the shortcuts. It will all make sense when we cover these topics together in the first week or so of college in August/September.

### Section C: Cambridge Latin Course Online Resources



<https://www.clc.cambridgescp.com/online-activities>

For the first few months of the course, we are likely to read as many stories as possible from this well-established Latin course which also has lots of online activities. Again, I do not want to either overburden you or to restrict you to a list of particular tasks, so please read what seems most interesting. The stories get increasingly good the further your get (and have interactive vocab help) and the interactive grammar activities are useful, but please don't fret if they do not make sense when you try them on your own.

## Section D: Legonium



A selection of relatively easy passages (though still hard if this is your first attempt at Latin) alongside very serious original Latin poetry illustrated with Lego.

Good ones to try first might be:

Jokes that don't work in Latin - <https://www.legonium.com/jtdwin>

The Simpsons - <https://www.legonium.com/simpsones>

Star Wars - <https://www.legonium.com/spes-nova>

Daedalus and Icarus - <https://www.legonium.com/daedalus-et-icarus/20flh1maoscy8x3qnt6bz247pb6q3i>

## Section E: Latin News



<https://nuntiilatini.com/>

A Finnish website presenting articles on global current affairs which are very difficult to read in full but from which you might be able to pick out the main points, especially if you are familiar with what has been happening around the world recently. Eg Praeses Damnātus = The President Convicted (Trump)



# Reading list

## Suggested Reading

### Historical Fiction

Robert Harris 'Imperium' Trilogy (The life of Caesar told from the point of view of Cicero)

Elodie Harper 'The Wolf Den' (Everyday life in Pompeii)

Robert Graves 'I Claudius' (The life on an emperor)

### Historical Scholarship

Tom Holland 'Rubicon'

Mary Beard 'SPQR'

### Original Texts (start in translation!)

Ovid 'Metamorphoses'

Caesar 'Gallic Wars'

### Accessible Online Articles

Omnibus Magazine <https://archive.org/details/omnibusmagazine>

Classics for All <https://classicsforall.org.uk/reading-room/bellaria>

## Suggested Watching

To extend your learning further, consider watching the following amazing films and series.

Remember though, the classical world was NOT PG and many of the following suggestions make for somewhat racy viewing!

- Mary Beard Documentaries - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEhOk102ksk&list=PLugdQwSXQ0wA9VPrVJdbeQA9H-6p-Vxii&index=5&t=0s>
- **Gladiator (2000)**
- **Troy (2004)** – On Netflix. Story of The Trojan War.
- **Troy: Fall of a City** – On Netflix.
- **HBO series Rome** – Second hand boxsets online for as little as £3.99.
- **I Claudius** – 1970s BBC series, some clips available on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T40mDHDKqWM&list=PLjT3Z589ba7PdCy5fDKpWMMp1JmbfwaZl>