

**Latin
GCSE****Introduction**

Welcome to your GCSE Latin course. We hope you enjoy studying with us.



This course of lessons will prepare you for the OCR GCSE Latin (Specification Code J282) exam in 2025 and 2026. If you plan on studying for an earlier or later exam series, you will need the alternative version of the course which has the relevant cultural topics. The language components remain the same.

Course Aims

The main aim of this course is to prepare you for the three exam papers you will sit for GCSE Latin.

However, the course has the following additional aims:

- to prepare you for A-level Latin study
- to foster a love of classical languages and literatures
- to enable you to communicate effectively in English (and Latin!)



Oxford Open Learning

The Course

The Oxford Open Learning GCSE Latin course is set out as follows:

Module One: Amor – Conflicting Emotions

- Lesson 1 Inflection and Word Order
 - Lesson 2 Present tense – Regular First Conjugation Verbs
 - Lesson 3 Conjunctions
 - Lesson 4 Grammatical Gender and Declensions
 - Lesson 5 Nominative and Accusative Cases
 - Lesson 6 Pronouns
 - Lesson 7 'Otium' (1) (poem)
 - Lesson 8 Present Tense – Regular Second Conjugation Verbs
- Tutor-marked Assignment A**

Module Two: Myths and Beliefs

- Lesson 9 State Religion
 - Lesson 10 The Mythical Founding of Rome
 - Lesson 11 Genitive Case
 - Lesson 12 Present tense – Regular Third Conjugation Verbs
- Tutor-marked Assignment B**

Module Three: The Circus Maximus

- Lesson 13 The Layout of the Circus Maximus
 - Lesson 14 Present Tense – Regular Fourth Conjugation Verbs
 - Lesson 15 Present Tense – Irregular Verbs
 - Lesson 16 Charioteers and Chariot Racing
 - Lesson 17 The Dative Case
 - Lesson 18 The Ablative Case
- Tutor-marked Assignment C**

Module Four: Amor – 'Otium'

- Lesson 19 The Imperfect Active of Regular Verbs
 - Lesson 20 The Imperfect Active of Irregular Verbs
 - Lesson 21 'Otium' (2)
 - Lesson 22 The Perfect Active of Regular First Conjugation Verbs
- Tutor-marked Assignment D**

Module Five: The Theatre at Pompeii

- Lesson 23 The Perfect Active of Irregular Verbs

- Lesson 24 Scenery and Props
 - Lesson 25 Prepositions
 - Lesson 26 Actors
 - Lesson 27 Plays
 - Lesson 28 Adverbs of Time
- Tutor-marked Assignment E**

Module Six: The Roman Gods

- Lesson 29 Asking Questions
 - Lesson 30 The Roman Gods
 - Lesson 31 2-1-2 Adjectives
 - Lesson 32 3-Termination Adjectives
 - Lesson 33 2-Termination Adjectives
 - Lesson 34 1-Termination Adjectives
- Tutor-marked Assignment F**

Module Seven: Dinner Parties

- Lesson 35 The Triclinium
 - Lesson 36 The Pluperfect
 - Lesson 37 Entertainment at Dinner
 - Lesson 38 Comparatives
 - Lesson 39 Superlatives
- Tutor-marked Assignment G**

Module Eight: Life after Death

- Lesson 40 Life after Death
 - Lesson 41 Cemeteries and Tombs
 - Lesson 42 The Future Tense
 - Lesson 43 The Future Tense – Irregular Verbs
 - Lesson 44 Purpose and Result Clauses
 - Lesson 45 Causal Clauses (*quod* and *cum*)
- Tutor-marked Assignment H**

Module Nine: Baucis et Philemon

- Lesson 46 The Life of Ovid
 - Lesson 47 Baucis et Philemon
 - Lesson 48 Relative Clauses
 - Lesson 49 Conditional Clauses
 - Lesson 50 The Passive Voice
 - Lesson 51 Deponent Verbs
- Tutor-marked Assignment I**
Tutor-marked Assignment J (Mock Exam)

The OCR Literature and Culture Prescribed Sources Booklet

For the Literature and Culture paper (J282/06) you will need to download the OCR Literature and Culture Prescribed Sources booklet. This paper will have questions specifically about some of the sources in the booklet, as well as more open questions which will expect you to refer to the sources from the booklet. This is available as a Word document from: www.ool.co.uk/lng0003.

It is a good idea, when looking at the sources booklet, to do your own wider reading on the literature and culture topics. The course will give you some suggestions, and your tutor may be able to advise you with further reading too.

The Structure within each Lesson: How to Study

Front Page

The front page of each lesson shows:

- **The Title of the Lesson**
- **The aim(s) of the lesson.** These set out the progress you should make across the lesson. You should keep these in mind to keep you focused as you work through the lesson.
- **Context.** This gives a brief overview of how the lesson fits into the course as a whole, and which of your three exam papers will test the skills taught.

Lesson Notes


From the second page onwards are the lesson notes. These present the subject material for you to study in the lesson. Read through these carefully several times until you are sure you've understood the theory involved. Then you can tackle the activities.

Activities

For most of the course, the work you will do will not be sent to your tutor. It will consist of the lesson activities. These will aid your learning by giving you an opportunity to practise the skills you have learned, to test the knowledge you have gained and to decide whether you need to spend more time revising the lesson. None of the activities counts towards your Tutor-Marked Assignment results, nor do they count towards your exam

grade. They are there to inform you of how well you are learning the language and the topics.

Activities are indicated as follows:

Activity 1	<p>The words 'exercitus fortis militem perterritum pugnat' make the sentence 'The brave army fights the terrified soldier'.</p> <p>exercitus = army fortis = brave militem = soldier perterritum = terrified pugnat = fights</p>
	<p>What other ways can we write this same sentence, using the same words, in Latin?</p> <p>Please write your answer in the space below and then check with the Suggested Answers at the end of the lesson.</p>

The pencil symbol indicates that you should make your own notes in the space provided (though, of course, you may make them separately if you prefer.)

Where do I find the Answers to Activities?

This varies. Some of the activities do not have answers, because they are related to your own personal opinion or interpretation of the language studied. However, the majority of these will have *suggested* answers, which may be used to prompt your thinking.

Answers to questions that do have 'correct' answers will be found towards the end of the lesson.

As a distance learner, you don't have your tutor there to stop you from peeking at the answers while working. To make good progress, you should avoid doing this. Not only will it help you develop discipline that you might need for further study, but it will also provide you with a truer assessment of your understanding of the material.

Tutor-marked Assignments (TMAs)

About once in each module, there will be a Tutor-Marked Assignment. These are presented in a style which is either

similar to the Activities you've tackled in lessons or (as your level of Latin improves) similar to the exam papers you will sit. Ideally, these should be carried out under timed conditions, to get you used to writing to a set time. They will allow you the opportunity to thoroughly test your knowledge of the previous few lessons. Your answers to the TMAs should be sent to your tutor. Your tutor will mark your script and return it to you with a set of suggested answers.

The OCR Specification

This pack is aimed at students/candidates taking the OCR GCSE (9-1) in Latin (specification J282).

The OCR Specification contains a great deal of information on the aims and assessment of the Latin course. It is essential that you get hold of your own copy of the up-to-date specification for the year you are planning to sit the exam so you know what to prepare for.

The specification can be downloaded from the OCR website at www.ool.co.uk/lng0006.

Exam Grading

GCSE subjects which were first assessed in 2018 (such as Latin) are now graded as numbers 9-1 rather than letters A* - G. Under the new system, a 9 is the highest possible grade and a 1 is the lowest. This has been introduced to allow for more subtlety between grades.

Current grades 4 and 5 are generally considered to be the equivalent of the old 'C' grade. However, different institutions have different requirements. So, if you are studying Latin for entry into further study, you should check their requirements. The grades are given entirely by an external examiner, based on your exam marks, and not by your tutor. There is no coursework component to GCSE Latin.

The Written Examinations

OCR GCSE Latin candidates **must** take Paper 1 (Language) and then choose two of the other five papers to sit.

The OOL GCSE Latin course prepares you for Paper 1 (Language), Paper 4 (Verse Literature A) and Paper 6 (Literature and Culture.)

Details of Papers 1, 4 and 6 are given below. This information is all adapted from the specification.

Paper 1 – Language (J282/01)

This is a compulsory component. It is worth 100 marks, which represent 50% of the total marks for the GCSE.

Language is an externally assessed written examination testing AO1. (Assessment Objectives will be explained later).

The examination lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is formed of two sections:

Section A consists of 30 marks. In Section A, the unseen passage tells a story from either mythology or Roman domestic life. This will not necessarily be a passage that you have seen before. 20 marks are available for answering comprehension questions in English, including questions about the derivation of English words from Latin. 10 marks come from a choice of either answering questions on accident and syntax or translating three basic English sentences into Latin. This course will help you to do both of these, and in the exam you can choose whichever you feel will get you the most marks.

Section B consists of 70 marks. In Section B, the unseen passages will recount a story or stories from history. 20 marks will be available for answering comprehension questions in English. 50 marks will be available for translating a passage of unseen Latin of at least 90 words into English.

Paper 4 – Verse Literature A (J282/04)

This component is worth 50 marks and represents 25% of the total marks. This component is an externally-assessed written examination testing AO2 and AO3.

The Paper 4 examination lasts 1 hour.

The examination tests the understanding and appreciation of a prescribed set text which is between 110 and 120 lines in length. These set texts are studied in Modules 1, 4, 6 and 9 of the OOL course. The prescribed texts change every two years.

The course modules in this folder are for the examination in Summer 2025 and 2026. If you are taking your exams in an earlier or later exam series, you will need to get a different set of Lessons 7, 8, 10, 21, 30, 40, 41, and 47.

Candidates will be asked to translate a short passage of the set text from Latin into English and answer comprehension questions. They will also be required to answer analysis questions which will be marked on a point-by-point basis as well as an 8-mark analysis question which is marked using a level-of-response grid.

Learners will also be required to write an extended response, which draws upon material from the set text.

Paper 6 - Literature and Culture (J282/06)

Paper 6 is worth 50 marks and represents 25% of the total marks for the GCSE.

Literature and Culture is an externally assessed written examination testing AO2 and AO3.

The examination lasts 1 hour.

The set topics for examination in 2025 and 2026 for this component will be:

- Myths and Beliefs
- Entertainment

(In earlier years, the first of these was replaced by 'The Romans in Britain'.)

The questions will require you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the materials in the 'Prescribed Sources Booklet' and your own source study, as well use the unseen sources provided in the insert booklet for the assessment. This course will provide sources apart from those in the 'Prescribed Sources Booklet' for you to study, but you are strongly encouraged to also find and study your own. The questions will also require you to analyse the sources provided in the assessment, provide a personal response to the material studied and answer extended response questions.

The sources that you are required to discuss will be produced as an insert in your exam paper. You will not be allowed to take your own sources into the exam with you.

OCR Endorsed Resources

There are OCR recommended textbooks for studying the J282 specification, which you might wish to purchase for extra explanation or access to extra practice materials. These resources are not compulsory for completion of the OOL GCSE Latin course, nor for sitting the exam. They are optional extras in which you might be interested.

The up-to-date list can be found on the OCR website at www.ool.co.uk/lng0008.

Dictionary

We strongly recommend that you acquire a Latin Dictionary to help you with your studies. Collins *Latin Essential Dictionary* (ISBN: 978-0008377380) is a good basic choice or you might prefer the extra help you get with the Collins *Latin Dictionary and Grammar* (ISBN: 978-0008167677).

You need to be aware of the Declined Vocabulary List because that should be the limit of what you will need to know in the examination. This may be downloaded from the online version of this course or from the OCR website.

Assessment Objectives

The exams test whether or not learners have demonstrated a set of agreed aims for GCSE level study. These aims are called **Assessment Objectives**.

There are three Assessment Objectives for Latin:

- AO1 Demonstrate Knowledge and Understanding of the Language
- AO2 Demonstrate Knowledge and Understanding of Literature and/or other ancient sources
- AO3 Analyse, Evaluate and Respond to Literature and/or other ancient sources

AO1 is worth 50% of your GCSE and is tested exclusively in Paper 1.

AO2 and AO3 are worth 25% of your GCSE each and are tested in Paper 4 and Paper 6.

And finally...

You have chosen to study one of the most ancient languages we still have access to, and to learn more about a culture which shapes Europe even today. We hope you enjoy discovering more about the Romans, their lives and their language.

And perhaps, even, about yourself.

Bonam fortunam! I wish you good luck!

DARREN LESTER

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