

A LEVEL LATIN

2025-26



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

Course Outline

Most of the essential grammar and syntax should have been covered at GCSE but this will be consolidated, and new constructions and grammatical forms added. The AS vocabulary list will provide the foundation for A Level unseen work, although additional vocabulary, particularly of poetic words, will need to be learnt. Two Prose and two Verse Set Texts will be studied, although the two texts may be different parts of a work by the same author. It is anticipated that the prescribed authors will be Cicero and Virgil. As part of the preparation for the unseen paper, selections from other authors, particularly Livy and Ovid, will also be studied.

A Level External Assessment

At the end of Year 13 candidates take four papers: an unseen translation paper (33%); a comprehension paper (17%); a prose literature paper (25%); a verse literature paper (25%).

Entry Requirements

Pupils should normally have already gained a GCSE, or equivalent, at Grade 7 or above in Latin.

Skills Required and Developed

Good translation skills and the ability to show appreciation of the literary features of a particular author are essential. A good memory for vocabulary and grammar and the ability to learn material efficiently are also vital. Teaching groups tend to be small, allowing pupils to develop their own ideas through discussion and mutual evaluation.

Beyond the Classroom

The Classics Department organises study-day visits to Classical Plays, museums and lectures relevant to the syllabus. There are also biennial trips to Greece or Italy. Pupils are encouraged to take part in the Classical Association Reading Competition. Those considering studying Classical subjects at university are strongly encouraged to do an extended essay on a Classical theme.

University Courses and Professions that Require the Subject

The study of Latin is very highly regarded by universities as a discipline requiring high analytical skills. Well-trained classicists are in great demand at the top universities and those continuing to study at university are well-placed to find good jobs in a whole range of disciplines.



More Information

Contact our Head of Classics, Mr. M Murray:

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You can also find more information on the exam board's website: www.ocr.org.uk