

# Latin A Level

**Head of Classics: Mrs Sarah Bradley**  
E: [sbradley@ksw.org.uk](mailto:sbradley@ksw.org.uk)

## Why King's?

### Facilities

- Many lessons taught in historic Edgar Tower
- Regular use of ICT facilities in lessons
- Extensive student library

### Highlights

- Trips to classical sites in Italy

## A Level Latin

We follow the OCR Classics Specification for our AS and A Level Latin courses:

AS Level: Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Classics Latin H043

A Level: Advanced GCE in Classics Latin H443

### Alive and kicking

Latin is often regarded as 'dead' simply because it is no longer used as an everyday spoken tongue. But its influence on English, French, Spanish and Italian cannot be underestimated. Latin and Greek derived words form as much as 70% of the English language in use today and a much higher percentage of the technical vocabulary of Medicine and the Sciences.

### AS Level Latin – 1 year course

Unit 1 – Latin Language 50% of total AS marks  
1 hour 30 mins

Unit 2 – Latin Verse and Prose Literature 50% of total AS marks 2 hours

### Language (from lingua, tongue)

Language work at AS builds upon the foundations laid at GCSE. Comprehension and translation skills are developed, knowledge of word endings is consolidated and a defined vocabulary list (which contains many words already met at GCSE) offers security if mastered! Analysis and logical thought are key skills that will be developed here.

### Literature (from littera, letter)

Exploring Latin prose and verse enables students to engage directly with the wit and flair of some of the greatest minds of antiquity. Cicero, orator extraordinaire, will dazzle them with his technical brilliance and mind-bending sentence structure and the poet Ovid will amuse and charm them with his wordplay. Ovid's works have inspired everyone from Mozart to Ted Hughes while Cicero has been read by St Augustine, William Shakespeare and the founding fathers of the U.S. Constitution in the 18th century.

## Academic Performance

**100% A\*-C** Latin A Level

2023 Results



## A Level Latin – 2 year course

Unit 1 – Unseen translation 33% of total GCE marks  
1 hour 45 mins

Unit 2 – Prose composition or comprehension  
17% of total GCE marks 1 hour 15 mins

Unit 3 – Latin Prose Literature 25% of total GCE marks  
2 hours

Unit 4 – Latin Verse Literature 25 % of total GCE marks  
2 hours

At A Level, study of both language and literature continues. Unseen Translation/ Prose Comprehension

Students build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures through reading and studying texts written by a range of prose and verse authors to develop their translating skills.

### Latin Prose Literature

Students study two Latin prose set literature texts in depth. They also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context in which the set texts have been taken.

### Latin Verse Literature

Students study two Latin verse set literature texts in depth. They also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context in which the set texts have been taken.

### Who can take Latin?

Those who have done Latin GCSE and coped well with its rigours are in a position to take AS and the full A Level. It is highly suitable for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of the power of both language and literature. Latin combines very well indeed with English, Modern Languages and History but would also complement Maths and Science; it also provides a very useful backdrop for those interested in careers in Medicine, Law or Journalism.