

Classics Curriculum Summary

Latin Forms 3 - 6

The study of Latin begins in Form 3, with the linguistic content being introduced at a suitable pace for each age and ability group. The subject matter deals with appropriate topics from life, history and legend. The aims of the course are:

- To acquaint all children with the language so that they might achieve a fluent and intelligent understanding of the written word.
- To provide children with an awareness of language structures and a knowledge of vocabulary that will serve to increase their appreciation of both English and of other modern European languages.
- To give all children knowledge of the Classical background that provides the essential context for the study of the language.

In Forms 3 and 4 we use the Cambridge Latin Course Book I, which is divided into twelve stages - all of which are set in Pompeii in AD79. The course is essentially a reading one and each stage, therefore, contains a number of stories for translation/comprehension purposes. They follow the fortunes of a cast of characters as they pursue their daily life in Pompeii. In this way, children gain a very real impression of the suddenness and significance of the events of August 24th as they work towards Stage 12 and the eruption of Vesuvius.

In Form 5 we move onto the Cambridge Latin Course Book II, the first half of which is based in Roman Britain, and begin to prepare the children for Common Entrance, following the Common Entrance syllabus.

In Form 6 the course is based on the Common Entrance syllabus.

Key Skills and Content

Form 3

Topics:

- Life in Pompeii
- The impact of the eruption of Vesuvius

Grammar:

- Understand word order in Latin
- Nominative and accusative singular for 1st, 2nd and 3rd declension nouns
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd person singular parts of 'sum' and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd person singular endings of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs (present tense)
- Nominative plural endings for 1st, 2nd and 3rd declension nouns
- 3rd person plural forms of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs and 'sum' (present tense).

Form 4

Topics:

- Life in Pompeii
- The impact of the eruption of Vesuvius

Grammar:

- 3rd person singular and plural forms of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs and 'sum' (perfect and imperfect tenses)
- Accusative plural endings of 1st, 2nd and 3rd declension nouns
- Dative case endings for 1st, 2nd and 3rd declension nouns
- Pronouns 'nos' and 'vos' with 1st/2nd person plural forms of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs and 'sum' (present tense)
- Comparative and superlative forms of regular and some irregular adjectives
- Use of the dative after 'faveo' and 'credo'

Form 5

In Form 5, preparation for Common Entrance examinations begins. At this stage, all children are issued with a Common Entrance Word List which is used for vocabulary learning.

Topics:

- The eruption of Vesuvius
- Roman Britain
- The Greek Myths: Theseus and the Minotaur, Perseus and the Gorgon's Head, Hercules and the Twelve Labours

Grammar:

- Imperfect and Perfect tense verb endings
- The infinitive, especially after the verbs volo, nolo and possum
- Use of the conjunction -que
- Irregular Perfect tense forms
- Vocative, Genitive and Ablative cases for 1st-3rd declension nouns, including 3rd declension neuter
- The Imperative
- Adjectives 1st-3rd declension
- Use of pronouns
- Prepositions
- Present, Future and Imperfect tenses of possum
- Present and Imperfect tenses of volo and nolo
- Numbers

Form 6

Vocabulary learning is taken from the Common Entrance Word List.

Greek Myths studied:

- Jason and the Argonauts
- The Iliad and the Odyssey

Grammar:

- Declensions of pronouns
- Future indicative tense of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs
- The Future tense of 'sum'
- Pluperfect indicative tense of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs
- Adverbs
- Prohibitions
- Irregular verbs
- 5th declension nouns
- Present, Future, Imperfect, Perfect and Pluperfect Passive tenses of 1st-4th conjugation regular verbs
- Moods and the Imperfect subjunctive
- Purpose clauses
- Present participles and the Past participle passive
- Irregular comparison of adjectives bonus, malus, magnus, parvus, multus
- Time

- Indirect commands

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

Latin develops SMSC in a wide variety of ways, including:

- Developing an appreciation of other cultures
- Engaging the children in discussion about a range of beliefs
- Giving children an appreciation of the richness of language and communication
- Supporting children to work collaboratively

Greek Forms 5 - 6

The opportunity to study Greek is offered to those pupils who, after one year of Latin, have shown a particular aptitude for the language. During the two-year course, we aim to introduce them to the structure of the Greek language and to aspects of Greek myth, literature and history. While the pupils acquire their knowledge of the latter in part through translations and books in English, they are also given the opportunity to read at least a little in the original. Original Greek can be read at an earlier stage in the course than Latin and can therefore be appreciated even by a relative beginner.

Form 5

In Form 5 the course is divided between studying the language and topics from Greek mythology and culture.

The language work begins with the learning of the Greek alphabet. Grammar points and vocabulary are then introduced in the context of simple sentences. Notes are made in the pupils' exercise books and this process continues throughout the two-year course. Much work is done on connecting Greek words with English derivations.

The pupils study the Gods of Olympus and heroes from Greek mythology. They share their knowledge with other members of the class and then choose a particular person to investigate in more detail. They also undertake work on the topic of the Ancient Olympic Games, discovering information about the events, athletes and the site of Olympia.

Form 6

In Form 6 the course is once again divided, this time between work on the language and the study of Greek literature.

More grammar points and vocabulary are introduced so that the pupils are in a position to read some passages of adapted original Greek, using the book "Reading Greek".

The pupils also study the two epic poems of Homer – "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey". This is mainly done through translations and books in English, but some of the original Greek is read.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

Greek develops SMSC in a wide variety of ways, including:

- Developing an appreciation of other cultures
- Engaging the children in discussion about a range of beliefs
- Giving children an appreciation of the richness of language and communication
- Supporting children to work collaboratively