



Languages

GCSE 2012

Latin

Teachers' Handbook

J281/J081

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1 INTRODUCTION

OCR's GCSE in Latin entered first teaching in September 2009.

We have improved the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike. We've made improvements in two key areas: updated and relevant content and a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills.

In addition and in response to reforms announced by the Government and in response to Ofqual mandated changes to GCSEs, unitised assessment of this qualification is being replaced by linear assessment from September 2012. This means that candidates commencing a two year course from September 2012 will take all of their GCSE units at the end of the course in June 2014.

The main changes to the GCSE Latin Specification are:

- The opportunity to study for a GCSE Short Course as a stand-alone qualification or as the first half of the GCSE Full Course
- The opportunity for candidates to combine units taken at different tiers, thus allowing centres to make an entry for any unit at a tier appropriate to the individual candidate
- The opportunity to take a language unit (Unit A401) as a computer-based test
- The inclusion of more varied question types and questions offering the opportunity for extended writing
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Equality Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specification and to support you while teaching them.

It is important to make the point that this Teacher Handbook plays a secondary role to the specifications themselves. The GCSE Latin specification is the document on which assessment is based: it specifies what content and skills need to be covered. At all times therefore, the Teacher Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Specification. If clarification on a particular point is sought, then that clarification must be found in the Specification itself.

2 SUBJECT SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

A401: LATIN LANGUAGE 1 (MYTHOLOGY AND DOMESTIC LIFE)

This unit consists of two or three passages of Latin, tested by a range of questions. These will include traditional 'comprehension' questions, a section for translation into English, and the chance to show knowledge of how English words are derived from Latin. The number of marks available for translation will be 20 marks out of 60.

The theme of the Latin passages will be mythological or related to Roman domestic life. In comparison with Unit A402, there is a reduced amount of vocabulary and grammar to be learnt for this unit (please see the full specification document for details).

Vocabulary will be taken from defined vocabulary lists of 300 words for Higher Tier and 250 words for Foundation Tier. Any words appearing on the paper but not included in the relevant defined vocabulary list will be glossed.

This unit is available for GCSE (Short Course) and may be taken as a computer-based test (please see the specification for Details).

A402: LATIN LANGUAGE 2 (HISTORY)

This unit will consist of a passage or passages of Latin, tested by comprehension questions (20 marks) and translation into English (40 marks).

The theme of the Latin passage(s) will be historical. Vocabulary will be taken from defined vocabulary lists of 450 words for Higher Tier and 350 words for Foundation Tier. These lists contain all the words specified in the lists for Unit A401. Any words appearing on the paper but not included in the relevant defined vocabulary list will be glossed.

The standard of difficulty is intended to be similar to the standard of the compulsory language papers of the outgoing specification (1942/11 and 1942/21). Though the passages will not necessarily be military, Centres are advised to ensure that their candidates have read sufficient Latin with military/historical content.

A403: LATIN PROSE LITERATURE

A choice of prose sets texts is available for study, each of approximately 135 lines in length (Higher Tier) or 100 lines (Foundation Tier). The texts will be taken from the Cambridge Latin Anthology and the new OCR Latin Anthology for GCSE, produced in collaboration with Oxford University Press.

The texts will be tested though a variety of questions, involving comprehension, translation (Higher Tier only) and literary appreciation. Some will be multiple choice in format. For Higher Tier there will be two questions, one worth 10 marks, requiring an extended piece of writing, and one question worth 8 marks requiring candidates to think about their reading of the whole set text (eg, going beyond the passages printed on the question paper). Thus, extended writing will be worth 28 marks out of the 50 available for the paper. For Foundation Tier, 20 marks out of 50 will be for extended writing (one question worth 10 marks).

A404: LATIN VERSE LITERATURE

This paper will be similar in design to the Prose Literature paper. A choice of verse sets texts is available for study, each of approximately 135 lines in length (Higher Tier) or 100 lines (Foundation Tier). The texts will be taken from the new OCR Latin Anthology for GCSE and Virgil's Aeneid (extracts from Aeneid VI in 2010, and Aeneid II in 2011).

The texts will be tested though a variety of questions, involving comprehension, translation (Higher Tier only) and literary appreciation. Some will be multiple choice in format. For Higher Tier there will be two questions, one worth 10 marks, requiring an extended piece of writing, and one question worth 8 marks requiring candidates to think about their reading of the whole set text (eg, going beyond the passages printed on the question paper). Thus, extended writing will be worth 28 marks out of the 50 available for the paper. For Foundation Tier, 20 marks out of 50 will be for extended writing (one question worth 10 marks).

A405: SOURCES FOR LATIN

What are the sources of our knowledge about ancient Rome? What can we learn from them about Roman civilisation? How reliable are they? These are some of the questions that candidates preparing for the A405 Sources for Latin unit will be exploring. The aim of this unit is to develop skills of reading and analysing sources, and evaluating them as evidence for Roman civilisation.

The starting point is the sources themselves. These are likely to provide evidence for several of the aspects of Roman civilisation listed in the specification: 'Work and domestic life' and 'Social life and entertainment'. The core primary sources are listed in the specification, and OCR will be publishing a booklet containing translations of the Latin extracts and selected inscriptions. Centres are advised to study a selection of the core sources and any other primary source material relevant to the two prescribed aspects of Roman civilisation.

In the examination, questions will be set both on items taken from the list of core sources, and other items relevant to the same aspects of Roman life, including pictures. Questions will include comprehension questions, some in the form of multiple choice, some involving comparison and evaluation of sources, and questions requiring extended writing. Especially at Higher Tier, questions may offer scope for referring to relevant source items other than those printed on the examination paper.

Textual primary sources will be translated. Where inscriptions are included in questions, the Latin text will also be given, with abbreviations expanded, and a translation. Candidates may be asked to relate a detail of the translation to the text.

For pictures of artefacts and archaeological evidence, Centres may refer to the illustrated course books such as Cambridge Latin Course, the many illustrated books about Roman civilisation and the internet. Visits to sites and museums can provide further information, as well as photographs and guidebooks as additional resources.

3 RESOURCES

The OCR website contains a collection of specimen papers and support materials, including sample schemes of work and lesson plans.

These can be found at <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcsefor2009/latin/documents.html>

The following resources are also recommended:

UNITS A401 AND A402

Carter, A (2003) Latin Momentum Tests for GCSE, Bristol Classical Press, ISBN 978-1853996672

Taylor, John (2006) Essential GCSE Latin, Bristol Classical Press, ISBN 978-1853996931

Morwood, James (1999) A Latin Grammar, Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-0198601999

Scottish Classics Group (1989), The Latin Language: A Handbook for Students, Oliver and Boyd, ISBN 978-0050042878

Cambridge Schools Classics Project (1992), Cambridge Latin Grammar, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0521385886

UNITS A403 AND A404

Cambridge Schools Classics Project (1996) Cambridge Latin Anthology, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0521578776

Cambridge Schools Classics Project (1996) Cambridge Latin Anthology (Teacher's Handbook), Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0521578547

McDonald, P and Widdess M (2009) OCR Latin Anthology for GCSE (Students' Book), ISBN 978-0198329329

McDonald, P and Widdess M (2009) OCR Latin Anthology for GCSE (Teacher's Book), ISBN 978-0198329312

UNIT A405

Sources for Latin: core sources, including inscriptions, for A405, to be available on the OCR website. This booklet will also suggest additional resources.

Many of the core sources can also be found in Shelton, Jo-Ann (1997) As the Romans Did: A Sourcebook in Roman Social History, Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-0195089745

4 OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

In order to help you implement the new GCSE Latin Specification effectively, OCR offers a comprehensive package of support:

PUBLISHED RESOURCES

OCR offers centres a wealth of quality published support with a fantastic choice of 'Official Publisher Partner' and 'Approved Publication' resources, all endorsed by OCR for use with OCR specifications.

PUBLISHER PARTNERS

OCR works in close collaboration with three Publisher Partners; Hodder Education, Heinemann and Oxford University Press (OUP) to ensure centres have access to:

- Better published support, available when you need it, tailored to OCR specifications
- Quality resources produced in consultation with OCR subject teams, which are linked to OCR's teacher support materials
- More resources for specifications with lower candidate entries
- Materials that are subject to a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement

Oxford University Press is the publisher partner for OCR GCSE Latin.

Oxford University Press has produced the following resources for OCR GCSE Latin for first teaching in September 2009.

OCR Latin Anthology for GCSE (Students' Book)
McDonald, P and Widdess M
ISBN 978-0198329329

OCR Latin Anthology for GCSE (Teacher's Book)
McDonald, P and Widdess M
ISBN 978-0198329312

APPROVED PUBLICATIONS

OCR still endorses other publisher materials, which undergo a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. By offering a choice of endorsed materials, centres can be assured of quality support for all OCR qualifications.

ENDORSEMENT

OCR endorses a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering its qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's "Official Publishing Partner" or "Approved publication" logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. All

responsibility for the content of the publisher's materials rests with the publisher.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve an OCR qualification. Any resource lists which are produced by OCR will include a range of appropriate texts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The OCR Professional Development Programme offers more accessible and more cost effective training, with the same valued content that you expect from us.

At OCR, we are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve the support we offer to teachers. Most recently we have been considering the increasing challenges that schools face in releasing teachers for INSET, and how OCR can make its professional development programme more accessible and convenient for all.

From September 2012, our new improved programme will include:

- FREE online professional development units available when and where you want them
- FREE live web broadcasts of professional development events
- FREE face to face training for GCSE controlled assessment and GCE coursework
- A series of 'not to be missed' premier professional development events.

For more information, please email training@ocr.org.uk or visit www.ocr.org.uk/training.

OCR SOCIAL

Visit our social media site (www.social.ocr.org.uk). By registering you will have free access to a dedicated platform where teachers can engage with each other - and OCR - to share best practice, offer guidance and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers; such as lesson plans, presentations, videos and links to other helpful sites.

INTERCHANGE

OCR Interchange has been developed to help you to carry out day to day administration functions online, quickly and easily. The site allows you to register and enter candidates online. In addition, you can gain immediate free access to candidate information at your convenience. Sign up at <https://interchange.ocr.org.uk>

4 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the new Latin GCSE first be available?

Latin GCSE is available for first teaching from September 2009. Assessment for all units is available from June 2010 onwards. Certification for GCSE Short Course will be available for the first time in June 2010 and for the full course for the first time in June 2011.

Will there be a January session for any of the Latin units?

Yes. There will be a January session for Units A401/01/02 and A402/01/02, however the final January session for these units will be January 2013.

Can candidates combine Higher Tier and Foundation Tier papers?

Yes.

How difficult will the new language papers be in comparison with the two papers from the outgoing specification?

The level of difficulty of the Latin passages is intended to be similar to that of the compulsory language papers 1942/11 (Foundation Tier) and 1942/21 (Higher Tier) from the outgoing specification. Unit A401 requires a reduced amount of grammar and vocabulary to be learnt in comparison with Unit A402.

Will there be a textbook for the Sources paper?

No. OCR will publish a booklet containing the core primary source materials but Centres are encouraged to study other primary source materials from a variety of sources (books, internet, site visits etc.)

Are candidates allowed to re-sit individual units?

This is no longer possible. The new linearised GCSE will prevent the mid-course re-sitting of units eg candidates starting a two year course in September 2012 and certificating in June 2014 will have the opportunity to re-sit a whole qualification in 2015 June series where linear rules apply. For those candidates who started their course in September 2011, please refer to the OCR website for advice: http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gcse_2012/changes/index.aspx

Contact us

Keep up to date with the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/updates

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