

## How is Latin assessed?

Latin is assessed by the State Examinations Commission (SEC), at both Ordinary and Higher Levels. Assessment consists of two components designed to evaluate both linguistic and contextual understanding of Latin:

1. Research Study (40%) (Additional Assessment Component – AAC)
2. Written Examination (60%) - Includes prescribed grammar, vocabulary, and the Capstone Text\*. Assesses comprehension, translation, and literary analysis skills.

The Research Study requires students to investigate, evaluate and report on a language-centred topic of their own choosing that is anchored in the specification. Designed to allow students to engage in self-directed study and to pursue in more depth an aspect of their study of the language that animates their interest and curiosity.

The Research Study brief is published annually in term 2 of year 1 of the Leaving Certificate by the SEC who will also publish dates for completion submission. For each examination year, the brief will set out specific instructions, including information on choice of topic, authentication and submission of the Research Study.

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Research Study (AAC)	40%	Common Brief
Written Examination	60%	Higher and Ordinary Level

*Overview of assessment for certification*

## At a glance

- minimum 180 class contact hours over 2 years
- 2 interconnected strands that encompass language acquisition, cultural understanding, and literary analysis
- prescribed Latin Capstone Text
- assessment:
  - Research Study: 40%
  - Written Examination: 60%

\*The Capstone Text is an in-depth and context aware reading of a prescribed Latin text. The Capstone Text provides a culminating and integrative experience, which allows all students to showcase and apply key knowledge and skills they have acquired in the course to a stimulating and context-rich Latin text.

The specification for Latin is available at [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)



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## What is Latin?

Latin is the ancient language of Latium, the region of the Italian city of Rome. As Rome became a dominant international power, Latin was spoken and written not only in Rome itself, but in all of Europe, North Africa and the Near East. Latin became a significant medium for literature, science, diplomacy and philosophy throughout Western Europe for centuries. It is the foundation of Romance languages like French, Spanish and Italian, and continues to influence modern technical terminology in fields like law and medicine. By learning Latin, students gain direct access to the literature, culture and thought processes of ancient Rome, and learn how the Roman past continues to inform the present.

## Studying an ancient language

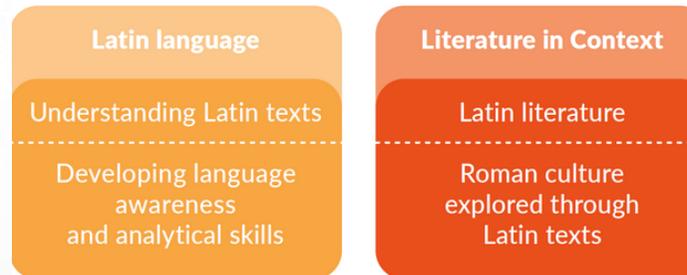
Senior Cycle Latin encourages students to engage with the language, literature and culture of ancient Rome, exploring its relevance in shaping modern society. The principal goal of learning Latin is being able to read culturally important written texts such as narratives, poems, histories, plays and scripts of famous speeches. Students will explore Latin texts in their various contexts and develop a firm cultural literacy as they explore the exploits, values and traditions of 'others' who are both familiar and different. Studying Latin helps students become culturally engaged, culturally aware and culturally connected.

The aims of Leaving Certificate Latin include:

- develop the capacity to recognise Latin language structures and vocabulary
- relate Latin texts to their historical, social and literary contexts and situate them within the broader ambit of Roman culture
- develop skills of critical analysis and evaluation to extract information and derive enjoyment from a variety of Latin texts
- foster an appreciation of linguistic and cultural diversity and the interdependence between language and culture
- appreciate how the culture and language of Rome and the Roman world have influenced modern cultures and languages

## What do students learn about?

Students study two interconnected strands that encompass language acquisition, cultural understanding, and literary analysis:



*Two interconnected strands*

## Strand 1: Latin Language

Students develop proficiency in Latin by:

- recognising linguistic structures and vocabulary
- exploring authentic and adapted texts
- translating Latin sentences and passages with accuracy
- applying analytical skills to understand grammar and syntax

## Strand 2: Literature in Context

Students engage with Latin texts to:

- analyse their cultural, historical, and literary significance
- understand Roman society through myths, traditions and values
- reflect on themes such as identity, citizenship, and politics

## Language Portfolio

Over the two years of Leaving Certificate Latin, each student develops a collection of materials which accumulate as part of the language learning process. This may include items such as notes, vocabulary lists, exercises, translation samples, analyses and discussions of texts, and projects and presentations in various formats and media, as well as learning logs, learner reflections and learning goals. This collection is called the Language Portfolio.

Students will maintain a Language Portfolio to:

- record and reflect on their learning experiences
- document their progress in language acquisition
- showcase examples of their engagement with Latin language and texts

The Language Portfolio does not play a role in assessment for certification.

