

LATIN IN S6-S7

Latin is a **4 periods subject** that can be chosen in the **written BAC exam** (not for the oral).

It can be chosen only by those pupils who have studied Latin in s4-s5.



Latin makes its particular contribution to the **development of the 8 key Competences** for Lifelong Learning adopted by the European Council and European Parliament, e.g.:

1. The teaching of Latin offers pupils a unique opportunity to understand the way their own mother tongue functions: the relations between Latin and the mother tongue, through different ways of translating, which serve to consolidate and reinforce the lexical and syntactical bases leading to a **firmer mastery of the mother tongue**.
2. It is a valuable and effective **aid to the learning of foreign languages, developing methodically the linguistic competences** (general and specialised vocabulary, syntax).
3. Being a language with declensions and a grammar that is both rigorous and flexible, Latin always confronts its learners with situations **demanding care and precision**. The pupil must formulate **analytical hypotheses**, and find or construct accurate connections between disparate parts of a sentence.
4. Along with Greek, Latin illuminates most **scientific vocabulary**, particularly that of medicine, as well as the origin of many academic and scientific areas.
5. The teaching of Latin provides a continuous **cross-curricular approach** through its interactive use of several disciplines at the same time; and as it is **multidisciplinary** by nature, Latin incorporates **language, literature, history, arts and philosophy**. As a result, the knowledge and skills which develop Latin are transferable to other subject areas.
6. Learning Latin permits us to **understand the contemporary world better**: it brings unequalled insights, it compares our societies to ancient ones and it provides key insights into the economy, the law, religion, and social and political life. Europe today maintains relations of both cultural difference from, and identity with the Roman world: learning Latin, therefore, contributes to the development of this sense both of identity and of difference in the collective life of a more complex society. It is a training in **critical thinking**. It is also a factor in the development of **tolerance**, as it involves an advanced level of knowledge of different types of society and religion.

7. It invites pupils to explore the **foundation texts** which have nourished and which continue to **nourish the culture, the imagination** and the arts of Europe and the world, yesterday and today.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE 3RD CYCLE (S6-S7)

1. read, understand and analyse literary and non-literary texts:

- read lengthy texts belonging to various genres: literary texts (proses and poems), philosophical texts, scientific texts, legal texts, inscriptions, etc.
- make an independent translation of a text;
- compare translations and make a critical judgement between them;
- comment on a text explaining the following aspects: literary, philosophical, cultural and historical (explicit and implicit);
- analyse vocabulary (and derivations in modern languages), grammatical structures, rhetorical devices along with their effects, etc.

2. demonstrate knowledge of the scientific, legal, philosophical, literary, economic, financial and historical context (among others) in order to place a text appropriately; show an **advanced understanding of the ancient Roman world**;

3. **put into perspective in a precise and subtle way the heritage of antiquity** in all its different aspects; acquire a classical cultural understanding to appreciate the contemporary world, establish openness towards Europe and encourage a personal reflection of a political, philosophical and aesthetic order.

Contents in s6

Reinforcement of language skills competences acquired in s4-5.

Study of a selection of Roman authors and texts to describe the development of significant Latin genres and themes, especially those connected to the *Pensum* to be studied in s7.

Contents in s7

Authors, texts and themes connected to the *Pensum* chosen by the inspector's working group in Brussels every 3 years.

The topic set for school years 2025/2026, 2026/2027 and 2027/28 is “**Homo et animal**”, that analyses in depth different aspects of this fascinating relationship, e.g.:



- Meat-eating/Vegetarianism
- Working animals (agriculture, hunting, war, etc.)
- Pets vs wild animals
- Sacrifice and divination
- Animals in literature (fables, tales, poems)
- Games, spectacles, hunts
- Anthropocentrism

Pupils will study a selection of literary texts written by Catullus, Varro, Cicero, Virgil, Ovidius, Phaedrus, Petronius, Martialis, Pliny the Younger, along with examples of non-literary texts.

They will also analyse ancient iconographic materials (statues, mosaics, paintings, etc.).

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (B tests and exams)

S6

- One B test at the end of first semester;
- One exam modelled on the BAC exam at the end of the year.

S7 one PreBAC and one BAC written examination, consisting of 3 parts:

1. **Reading comprehension (30% of the points)** of 2 unseen texts, a short non-literary text (e.g. inscription, proverb, law, riddle, etc.) to be explained, and a literary text of about 50 words to be translated.
2. **Analysis of a text from the *pensum***, studied during the year (**40% of the points**), guided by questions that cover:
 - a) **vocabulary** and **grammar**
 - b) **etymology/derivations**
 - c) interpretation of **themes** and **style/diction**
 - d) analysis of **one or more translations** of a short section of the set passage.
3. Writing of an **essay based on the *pensum* (30% of the points)**. The student will choose one of two tasks (a question, a quotation, or one or more images). Candidates should develop a reasoned argument, using specific examples, which refer to the *pensum* and reflect on the reception and influence of Latin in history and in the contemporary world.

The candidate may use a **bilingual dictionary** and the ***conspectus grammaticalis*** (a table of nouns, verbs forms, etc.).

A **LATINUM EUROPAEUM SUPERIUS** certificate will be awarded to students who have successfully taken the Latin course as an option in years 6 and 7 of the European Schools, up to the Baccalaureate.