

SEC SYLLABUS (2026)

LATIN

SEC 21

SYLLABUS

Latin SEC 21 Syllabus	(Not available in September) Paper I (2 hrs): Verse+Prose + Paper II (2 hrs)
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Introduction

The syllabus which is here presented has been designed to lead to a teaching syllabus and scheme of examination which will provide:

- (a) a system which differentiates between candidates on the basis of positive achievement rather than failure;
- (b) a system which enables all candidates to gain grades according to their competence.

Aims

The aims of a course in Latin leading to the award of a Secondary Education Certificate should be:

- (a) to form a sound basis of skills, language, and attitudes required for further study;
- (b) to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of Classical Rome;
- (c) to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

Assessment Objectives

The scheme of assessment will test:

- (a) the candidates' ability to understand Latin in written forms;
- (b) the candidates' ability to produce written material in Latin.

Scheme of Assessment

The examination will consist of two papers of two hours' duration each.

Paper I (100 marks): This paper is to be taken by all candidates. It will consist of two sections: A (verse) and B (prose). Candidates must attempt both sections.

Paper II (100 marks): There will be two versions of this paper: Paper IIA and Paper IIB. Candidates are required to indicate on the registration form which Paper II they wish to sit for. No change in the choice of paper will be allowed after the registration period. Paper IIA comprises more demanding questions than those in Paper IIB.

Results

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIA may qualify for a grade within the range 1 to 5 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); the results of candidates who do not obtain a Grade 5 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIB may qualify for a grade not higher than 4 (i.e. grades 4, 5, 6, 7); the results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Syllabus

Paper I

This paper will consist of two sections A and B. Candidates must attempt both sections.

Section A (50 marks)

A prescribed verse text. Passages are set and questions asked on them to test candidates' understanding of context, subject-matter, and simple grammatical and literary points. Candidates may be asked to translate parts of the set passages.

Section B (50 marks)

A prescribed prose text, candidates' knowledge of which will be tested as in Section A.

Set Texts:

Prose – *Cicero: Select Letters* by D.R. Shackleton Bailey – C.U.P. 1998, ISBN 0 521 295246 paper, Letters 1-25

Verses – Virgil: Selections from Aeneid IV by J.V. Muir - C.U.P. 1994, ISBN 0 521 21581 1 limp
Lines 1 to 361 in Latin, the rest in English.

Paper II

Paper IIA

Candidates will be asked to answer Questions 1, 2 and either 3 or 4 (three questions in all) from the following:

- (a) a short Latin prose passage for translation into English (30 marks)
- (b) a Latin prose passage with questions to test comprehension (30 marks)
- (c) another short but more difficult Latin prose passage, or a verse passage for translation into English (40 marks)
- (d) a choice of eight of ten English sentences for translation into Latin (40 marks)

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the following elements of syntax:

- Common case usages, with or without prepositions; common expressions of place and time.
- Use of verbs, including those governing the dative and ablative; prolate infinitive; use of participles, including ablative absolute; simple uses of gerunds and gerundives, including obligation.
- Direct and indirect statements; direct and indirect questions; direct and indirect commands and petitions; purpose clauses; result clauses; relative clauses; verbs of fearing; causal clauses introduced by *quod*, *quia* with the indicative or *cum* with the subjunctive; concessive clauses; common simple temporal clauses; easy examples of conditional clauses; use of personal, possessive, reflexive, emphatic demonstrative, relative and interrogative pronouns and adjectives.

Paper IIB

Candidates will be asked to answer Questions 1, 2, and either 3 or 4 (three questions in all) from the following:

- (a) an easy and short Latin prose passage with easy translation into English (30 marks)
- (b) an easy and short Latin prose passage with easy questions to test comprehension (30 marks)
- (c) another easy and short Latin prose or verse passage for translation into English (40 marks)
- (d) a choice of eight of ten simple English sentences for translation into Latin (40 marks)

Candidates are expected to be familiar with Latin Grammar, and simple elements of Latin syntax, such as, *cum*-clause (meaning "since"), direct question, direct command, wish for the future, exhortation, prohibition, relative clause, and ablative absolute. No cases of obligation expressed in the gerund or gerundive will be examinable.

Suggested Text-book

E.G. MacNaughton and T.W. McDougall, *A New Approach to Latin*, Books I-II (Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh) or a course of the same level.

Ph Dunlop, *Short Latin stories*, C.U.P. 1987, ISBN 0 52 1 paperback.