

## A Level Latin

### Bridging Work

Here in the BHS Latin & Classics department, we believe in giving you, the student as much control over the course as possible. We believe that you will work harder, do better, and, most importantly, have much more fun if you are studying the set texts that *you* have chosen to read. We therefore invite you to vote on next year's set text choices. Mr Connor has prepared a document explaining options (and why they are all very exciting: the choice is not an easy one), which you can find below. I will add a link to an MS Form to the first page of the PowerPoint on Thursday, giving you a window to read, think, and ask any questions, whether in person or by email.

[Latin A level - Set Texts 2026-2028](#)

### Things to do

In order to ensure that you come back in September ready to push on beyond GCSE, I strongly advise reviewing the grammar summary in Taylor & Cullen's *Latin to GCSE 2* (make sure all the case and person endings are nice and fresh in your mind) and tackling a few of the tricky chapter 11 unseen passages in late August, just before you come back to start the A Level course. Completing occasional unseen passages (say, one every week or two) over the whole holiday would help to keep your Latin from rusting away! This should not take more than four hours in total.

I also recommend making a start on the AS Vocabulary List:

PDF version: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221507-as-level-gce-latin-h043-defined-vocabulary-list.pdf>

Excel spreadsheet version: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/297474-as-level-gce-latin-h043-defined-vocabulary-list.xlsx>

Your new Quizlet class is here:

<https://quizlet.com/join/sEhJWGzeG?i=1k5fcz&x=1bqt>

**Books you need to buy:**

- John Taylor, *Latin Beyond GCSE*: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/latin-beyond-gcse-9781474299831/>
- Collins GEM Latin Dictionary
- Kennedy's *Revised Latin Primer*
- *Set texts tbc.*

### **Recommended additional commentaries on the set texts:**

TBC

### **Recommended contextual reading for set texts**

TBC

### **Recommended reading to support the unseen specification**

The A Level unseen translation passages will always come from Livy and Ovid. It is thus sensible to read lots of both authors in translation, both to develop familiarity with the kinds of stories they tell (and how they tell them), and to create a chance that one of your exam unseens won't really be unseen at all! The best editions to buy are always those from the Loeb Classical Library: reasonably literal English translations printed in parallel with the Latin text.

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (a retelling of most of the best known Greek myths, woven together into one flowing narrative via the motif of shape-change) is the most accessible and enjoyable of these texts, and there's a roughly 50% chance that an exam question will be drawn from it. There are many fine commercial translations, both prose and verse. David Raeburn's recent translation for Penguin has drawn much praise, as has A.D. Melville's for Oxford World's Classics. Ted Hughes' *Tales from Ovid* is more retelling than translation, but it is a terrific read. As regards free online translations, the prolific A.S. Kline's version is serviceable:

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Ovhome.php>

Kline has also completed translations of all of Ovid's other works:

The *Heroides* (in which the wronged heroines of Greek myth get a voice):

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Heroideshome.php>

*Tristia* and *Ex Ponto*, in which Ovid whines about how lonely and miserable he is in exile on the Black Sea (ideal cathartic lock-down reading):

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Ovidexilehome.php>

*Fasti* (a bit niche this one – a long poem about the Roman religious calendar):

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Fastihome.php>

*Amores* (love poems – some humorous, some cruel), *Ars Amatoria* (the world's first pick-up guide – deeply sleazy) and *Remedia Amoris* (how to cure love):

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/Lovepoemshome.php>

Livy's massive history of Rome "ab urbe condita" - "from the founding of the city" - fills 14 Loeb volumes - 4 hefty volumes in Penguin translation. A good starting point is the third volume of the Penguin edition, entitled *The War with Hannibal* - translated by Aubrey de Sélincourt.