

Revision for Latin Exams



It can be difficult deciding where to start when revising for a language exam. Here are some hints to reduce the work to manageable pieces.

In general, your revision will be easier, shorter and more effective if:

- you make it varied by spending no more than ten minutes at a time doing the same task
- you are active instead of passive, so instead of just reading through books or notes, you write notes, test yourself and do practice examples.

Vocabulary

- 1) Make sure you have a note of exactly which vocab. you are expected to know, i.e. not just the DVL but any associated words that are included, like numbers or the comparison of adjectives (often not written out fully in exam board lists).
- 2) Use all the principles of ordinary vocab. learning (little, often and active). After testing yourself, discard any words that you know, and focus the others. Gradually, you will find the pile of unknown words (preferably on flashcards from earlier in the year) is getting smaller.

Grammar

- 1) List necessary grammar areas in the table on the next page. Copy it out if you need more space. Use reference tables and textbook contents to remind you.
- 2) One by one, rate how well you know and understand each thing on your list, using the traffic light system:

- | |
|---|
| a) green = fine, no need to stop on this. |
| b) amber = you could do with a brief pause to refresh your memory |
| c) red = need to stop and have another go at this. |

- 3) Now you can prioritise what most needs revising. If you have several items that are equally challenging, choose the earliest in the book because it is probably more used than the later ones.

If in doubt, try a sentence or two from an exercise you have already done on a topic, then check if your answer matches the corrected one

Then you can begin to revise, starting from the topics that most need your attention

This will avoid you spending needless time learning things that you have already learnt well enough.



Grammar for Revision

Accidence (tables)		Syntax (constructions)	

Literature

In some ways, revising your set text is like revising any other part of Latin.

- Learning small sections daily gets more done in less time than trying to do the whole lot at once.
- Test yourself so you don't waste time on sections you already know.



In other ways, it's different because you need to be able to do more than just translate it, since you've seen it before and had a chance to prepare. Test yourself by asking, "Can I say something interesting and intelligent about this line (of poetry) or sentence?" If the answer's "no", then find something about the style, or the context of what's said, in your notes, textbook or commentary. The guide to stylistic features should help you find things to talk about, but you certainly won't need every term in it! Also prepare yourself to be able to identify any character or place named, and give a detail about them.



If you've worked hard during the year, you'll already have learnt this all once, so don't panic!

