

Y11 Latin students preparing for A-level

There are two key things you need to do in this hiatus:

- maintain your language skills and make sure your Latin does not get rusty;
- make use of this opportunity to do some reading and start to extend your knowledge of Roman history & society or the wider Classical world.

A: Language work

Aim to do some Latin every week. Your textbook has practice translation passages at the back that are suitable for this. We did the first eight last year, but there are plenty more to work through. I will put an annotated correct version on the website at the end of each week, so that you can get some feedback on your work (starting with passage 9 around 24th April).

You could also get ahead by beginning to work on the AS Defined Vocabulary List. The full A-level has no list, but you need to use the AS list as a starting point. You can find it on the OCR website:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/latin-h043-h443-from-2016/planning-and-teaching/#as-level>

You will find there are lots of ready-made sets on **quizlet** that you could use - some divided alphabetically, some by theme & some by word type.

B: Reading

The key thing here is to follow your interests. Remember that watching/listening to documentaries (especially ones from reputable sources like BBC) is useful too. Don't buy a ton of books because they appear on a reading list somewhere - I did that aged 17 & some of those books are still gathering dust on my shelves. I'm recommending things that I'm sure are readable & useful.

Latin literature in translation:

Virgil, Aeneid - I'd recommend the Penguin Classics prose translation by David West
Livy, Early History of Rome

Historical context:

SPQR, Mary Beard - a bit of a door-stop, but very readable & wide ranging. Excellent at giving you an insight into how we know what we "know".

The End of the Roman Republic 146-44BC, Catherine Steel - intended to give a straightforward narrative introduction to this key period of Roman history; I haven't read this one but I'd like to.

Wider Classical world:

Homer, Iliad and/or Odyssey - I personally find prose translations easier, Penguin Classics are fine. Emily Wilson's (still quite new) verse translation has had rave reviews, though!

If you want to venture deeper into Greek literature, I would recommend *Herodotus' Histories*, *Sophocles' Theban plays* & *Plato's Symposium* as good places to start, but try anything you can find.

Early Greece, Oswyn Murray

Greek History: The Basics, Robin Osborne

Modern literature drawing on Classics

Reworking Homer (I feel you should read the originals first...)

Silence of the Girls Pat Barker

The Song of Achilles Madeline Miller

Circe Madeline Miller

The Emperor's Babe Bernardine Evaristo: a verse novel set in Roman London