

Common Entrance Latin at Cargilfield

The teaching of Latin begins in Form 6 and from the start Common Entrance is the main focus. Throughout the next three years, we work towards the Common Entrance exam which is sat at the beginning of June each year. To prepare for this, those in Form 6 and Form 7 will undertake exams in both the autumn and summer terms, whilst those in Form 8 will have an additional mock in February. This process allows the children to become accustomed to the Common Entrance exam process and when the time comes for their actual Common Entrance exam, they will be able to confidently endeavour to do their best.

The Syllabus

The Common Entrance syllabus aims to promote a firm understanding of the essentials of Latin and to also foster an interest in the Greek and Roman worlds. It is intended to meet the needs of those children who may have had only a limited exposure to Latin as well as of those who have reached a more advanced stage. Therefore the syllabus consists of different levels. In Latin, there are three levels at Common Entrance. Level 1 is intended for candidates who have studied Latin for 1 to 2 years. Level 2 is for candidates who have studied Latin for 2 to 3 years. Latin level 3 is for candidates who have a greater depth of learning. With this in mind, Form 6 beginning studying Level 1 straightaway, moving on to Level 2 in Form 7 and 8 and moving onto Level 3 when showing a high degree of understanding.

Each Common Entrance Level is both rigorous and rigid in what it wants; a grammar-based understanding of how the language works and an ability to translate both Latin-English and English-Latin.

The following topics are studied at each Level:

Level 1

- Adjectives: 1st and 2nd Declensions.
- Nouns: 1st and 2nd Declensions.
- Numbers: Cardinals, 1-10; Ordinals, 1st-10th.
- Prepositions.
- Pronouns.
- Verbs: 1st – 4th Conjugations; Present, Imperfect and Perfect tenses; Infinitives; Imperatives; *sum*.

Level 2

- Adjectives: 3rd Declension; Comparatives and Superlatives.
- Nouns: 3rd Declension.
- Numbers: Cardinals, 11-20.
- Pronouns: *hic, haec, hoc; ille, illa, illud; is, ea, id; ego & tu*.
- Verbs: Future and Pluperfect tenses; *possum; eo*.

Level 3

- Nouns: 5th Declension.
- Numbers: Cardinals, 21-100.
- Pronouns: Declensions of *qui, idem* and *ipse*.

- Verbs: The Passive Voice; Imperfect Subjunctive; Present Participles; fero, nolo and volo.

The Exam

The Common Entrance exam is 60 minutes long and consists of four sections; a comprehension, a translation, grammar questions and a non-linguistic question.

- **Comprehension:** This will test their comprehension of a Latin passage and their ability to answer questions on the passage.
- **Translation:** This section will test their understanding of vocabulary and grammar and their ability to translate a Latin passage into good English.
- **Grammar Questions:** This will test their ability to pick out specific grammatical forms from a Latin passage. It will also include two English sentences, which need to be translated into Latin. The vocabulary is provided for these two sentences.
- **Non-Linguistic Question:** This section is designed to test their knowledge of Classical Civilisation. It will provide eight questions on a variety of topics, with the pupils choosing one of them. Our focus is on the Roman Legends; Manlius Torquatus, Cloelia, Mucius Scaevola, Romulus & Remus, Horatius Cocles and Coriolanus. Each exam will contain a question on one of these six mythical figures.

Additional Information

Latin Extras runs one evening a week for those pupils who have any concerns or specific areas that they need help with.

Quizlet.com is a fantastic resource for Latin vocabulary revision and all the vocabulary that the pupils need to learn can be found if they search for ‘Cargilfield Latin CE Level 1, 2 or 3’.