

WHY STUDY LATIN

The study of Latin will enable the student to do the following:

In plain language, the student will	In official language, the student will
<p>Gain a literary and conversational command of another language, namely the ancient Roman language of Latin. [= A, B, C]</p> <p>Gain a knowledge of the language (Latin) which is the direct or indirect source of more than two-thirds of the English language, and this will strengthen, enhance, and enrich the student's knowledge of all aspects of the English language. [= D, E]</p> <p>Become aware of the history of Rome and Roman culture. In addition, since later Western history and culture grew out of Roman history and culture, the student will develop a deeper appreciation of his or her own native history and culture. It should be added that the so-called Romance languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, Romanian) and cultures are the direct descendants of Roman language and culture; therefore, a knowledge of Latin language and Roman civilization will enhance a student's attempts to learn and to understand these other languages and cultures. [= F, G]</p> <p>Become a better student in all areas on the basis of the study techniques that are needed to gain mastery of Latin. [= H]</p>	<p>A. Demonstrate in writing and orally mastery of the forms of the classical Latin language.</p> <p>B. Demonstrate mastery of the rules of classical Latin grammar and syntax.</p> <p>C. Be able to translate at sight basic passages from classical Latin writing.</p> <p>D. Demonstrate enhanced English vocabulary through recognition of Latin roots.</p> <p>E. Demonstrate mastery of aspects of English grammar and syntax through comparative analysis of Latin and English sentences.</p> <p>F. Be able to identify the major periods in Roman history and major Roman political, philosophical, and literary writers.</p> <p>G. Develop and demonstrate an appreciation of Roman culture in itself and in its influence on later cultures.</p> <p>H. Develop more rigorous and subtle study techniques which will be applicable to other areas of learning and inquiry.</p>

Finally, as a byproduct, students who study Latin make demonstrably higher scores on the SAT (and other standardized tests) than students who do not study Latin.

Roman Quotations

(1) Nescire autem quid ante quam natus sis acciderit, id est semper esse puerum. Quid enim est aetas hominis, nisi ea memoria rerum veterum cum superiorum aetate contextitur?

However, not to know what befell before you were born, that is always to be a child. For what is the age of a human if it is not woven together with the age of one's ancestors by means of a memory of old things? [Cicero, *Orator* 120]

(2) Ne discere cessa; nam sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis imago.

Do not cease to learn; for life without teaching is, as it were, an image of death. [Roman proverb]