

Changes to Latin KS4 qualifications - overview

The changes to Latin GCSE made by the government in Spring 2015 mean that from first examination in 2018 the WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications will lose their performance points and EBacc status, and the new OCR and WJEC GCSE qualifications will need to meet the DfE's subject content requirements. Some Latin qualifications will soon cease to be available, while others are being developed.

Qualification	summer 2016	summer 2017	summer 2018	2019 onwards
OCR Entry Level	✓	✓	?	?
OCR GCSE Latin - Short course	✓	✓	X	X
OCR GCSE Latin	✓**	✓**	✓**	✓**
WJEC Level 1 Lang & Civ	✓*	✓*	✓†	✓†
WJEC Level 1 Additional Language	✓*	✓*	✓†	✓†
WJEC Level 1 Literature	✓*	✓*	X	X
WJEC Level 2 Lang & Civ	✓**	✓**	✓†	✓†
WJEC Level 2 Additional Language	✓**	✓**	✓†	✓†
WJEC Level 2 Literature	✓*	✓*	X	X
WJEC GCSE Latin	X	X	✓**	✓**

* these qualifications carry performance points.

** these qualifications carry Ebacc status and performance points.

† these qualifications will lose their performance points.

? the future of these qualifications is still under discussion.

What's changing: Language

- The language exams will include comprehension and translation passages.
- There will also be a choice between a translation from English into Latin and a section in which pupils are asked to identify grammatical features.
- For those schools moving from the WJEC Level 2 Language and Civilisation certificate the most noticeable addition to the Language specification are indirect statements (first met in Stage 35 in the CLC).

What's changing: Literature / Civilisation

- Ofqual has stipulated that all students must study at least 110 lines of Latin literature for the GCSE.
- Students also have to study either a further selection of literature, or topics of Roman culture.

What's changing: Grading

The new GCSE will be graded from 1-9 in line with the grade reforms for other subjects. Grade boundaries will be set in such a way that the new grade 7 will be equivalent to the existing grade A.

However, from the pool of students achieving a 7 or above, only 20% will be allowed the top grade (9). This will equate to around 14% of all students entering the new GCSEs. At the moment around 44% of students achieve A* on the OCR GCSE. Many students who currently gain an A* on the OCR GCSE will therefore receive a grade 8 under the new system.

Further information

- You may also want to have a look at our 'Changes to Latin KS4 qualifications' document on what the changes will mean for your school.
- You can find WJEC's specification and assessment materials for the GCSE here: [link](#).¹
- You can find OCR's specification and assessment materials for the new GCSE here: [link](#).²
- You can find Ofqual's diagram of the new grading structure for GCSEs here: [link](#).³
- You can find Ofqual's leaflet with key points on the new grading structure here: [link](#).⁴

¹ <http://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/latin/>

² <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-latin-j282-from-2016/>

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377768/2014-09-12-grading-the-new-gcses-in.pdf

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377769/2014-09-12-grading-the-new-gcses-in-2017-leaflet.pdf