



WESTMINSTER
SCHOOL

The Challenge
Core Paper

LATIN

Syllabus and Guidance
First Examination 2027

Overview

The Latin paper for The Challenge is a single 60-minute paper, sat by all candidates offering Latin, marked out of 90 and reported as a percentage. It retains the academic rigour expected at Westminster while remaining accessible to candidates who arrive with differing degrees of prior experience, from those who have followed a prep-school course to Common Entrance or Scholarship level, to those who have studied Latin for a shorter period within an 11+ setting.

The paper is deliberately constructed as a single common paper rather than as tiered alternatives. There is no choice of level and no optional section. Differentiation is achieved by graded difficulty, both between the three sections and within each one. The opening of each section is reachable by a candidate with secure foundations; the later material rewards the depth and precision of the strongest classicists.

Structure

Section	Time	Marks	Skill
A Error correction	10	20	Grammatical judgement
B Comprehension and translation	30	40	Reading
C Translation into Latin	20	30	Grammatical production and extension

Section A: Error correction (20 marks)

Each item presents a Latin sentence with an English translation beneath it and a stated number of grammatical faults to be identified and corrected. The task assesses grammatical judgement rather than recall or composition: a candidate who has internalised how Latin agreement, case and mood operate identifies the faults quickly, while one who reads only word-by-word does not. This makes error correction an efficient discriminator, and a fair one for this cohort, since its easier items require only the secure foundations that all candidates share.

The items ascend in difficulty. The opening sentences contain just one fault each, in areas mastered early, such as adjective agreement or the case taken by a common preposition. The later sentences contain two errors each draw on the more advanced constructions. The section thus opens a route to marks for every candidate while reserving full marks for those with comprehensive grammatical control.

Section B: Comprehension and translation (40 marks)

This is the largest section and will differentiate candidates further. Candidates read a single continuous passage of narrative Latin (90–100 words) and answer a sequence of questions that guide them through it. The questions themselves are graded: the earliest ask straightforwardly what happens, and are answerable by any candidate who can construe the opening sentences; later questions require close reference to the Latin, the identification of grammatical forms and constructions, and interpretive comment on the author's stylistic choices. A block of ten marks is assigned to the continuous translation of a short passage into good English.

There are two marks for derivation questions. Vocabulary beyond the defined list is glossed as appropriate.

Section C: Translation into Latin (30 marks)

Candidates translate a short series of English sentences into Latin, rising in difficulty from a simple main clause using only core vocabulary and the indicative, to sentences requiring more complex subordinate constructions. The early sentences are within reach of a candidate who has done little formal composition, since they demand nothing beyond the secure foundations; the later sentences reward those who have been trained to manipulate the language actively. Indeed, the final sentences invite ambitious candidates to demonstrate syntactical and linguistic knowledge that is outside the syllabus. All are encouraged to attempt them, though, using the knowledge that they have.

Candidates may, if they wish, join the sentences into a single connected Latin narrative, using connectives, subordination and participial phrases to produce fluent continuous prose. Such attempts, if successful, will earn extra credit, but candidates who translate the sentences discretely lose nothing in accuracy and are not penalised. This design preserves English-to-Latin composition, which remains a valued mark of the trained classicist, in a form that stretches the strongest candidates towards genuine compositional fluency while remaining accessible to those meeting formal prose composition for the first time.

Syllabus

The examinable content is defined below. So that all candidates and their teachers may prepare with confidence, the syllabus distinguishes clearly between content that is assumed and will not be glossed, and content that is examinable but will be explicitly supported. Anything outside the defined vocabulary list is glossed where it occurs.

Grammar and syntax: minimum assumed knowledge

The following is assumed throughout the paper and will not be glossed or supported. It corresponds broadly to ISEB Common Entrance Level 2 and to the foundations secured by the end of a standard introductory course.

- Nouns: all cases, singular and plural, of the first, second and third declensions. A small number of common fourth and fifth declension nouns appear on the defined vocabulary list and may occur in their commonly met forms; the full fourth and fifth declension paradigms are not assumed.
- Adjectives: first/second and third declension; agreement; comparative and superlative.
- Pronouns: ego, tu, nos, vos, se, is, hic, ille; the relative pronoun qui.
- Verbs: present, imperfect, perfect and pluperfect indicative active; present infinitive; imperative; the irregular verbs sum, possum, volo, nolo.
- Participles: present active, perfect passive
- Syntax: agreement; common use of cases; prepositional phrases; relative clauses; direct questions; simple temporal and causal clauses.

Grammar and syntax: examinable and explicitly taught

The following constructions are examinable and represent the middle and upper end of the paper. They are listed explicitly so that teachers preparing candidates from any background know what to cover.

- The future tense
- The passive voice and deponent verbs
- The subjunctive (imperfect and pluperfect) in its principal subordinate uses: purpose clauses (ut / ne), indirect commands (with impero and similar verbs), cum + subjunctive ('when' / 'since'), and result clauses (ut ... so that)
- Indirect statement with the accusative and infinitive, using the present and perfect infinitive
- The ablative absolute

The final sentences in Section C will invite candidates to deploy syntactical and grammatical knowledge that is outside this broad syllabus.

Defined vocabulary

Vocabulary on the paper will be drawn from the list of words below, which are common to both the ISEB CE / CASE syllabus and the *Cambridge Latin Course* (up to Stage 20). Additional vocabulary will be glossed if it cannot be deduced from the context. Nouns are given with their genitive and gender; verbs with their principal parts; adjectives in full; prepositions with the case they govern.

Latin	English
<i>a / ab (+ abl.)</i>	from, by
<i>absum, abesse, afui</i>	I am absent, am away
<i>accipio, accipere, accepi, acceptum</i>	I receive, accept
<i>ad (+ acc.)</i>	to, towards
<i>adeo, adire, adii, aditum</i>	I approach, go to
<i>adsum, adesse, adfui</i>	I am present, am here
<i>advenio, advenire, adveni, adventum</i>	I arrive
<i>aedifico, aedificare, aedificavi, aedificatum</i>	I build
<i>ager, agri (m.)</i>	field
<i>agricola, -ae (m.)</i>	farmer
<i>alius, alia, aliud</i>	other, another
<i>altus, -a, -um</i>	high, deep
<i>ambulo, ambulare, ambulavi, ambulatum</i>	I walk
<i>amicus, -i (m.)</i>	friend
<i>amo, amare, amavi, amatum</i>	I love, like
<i>ancilla, -ae (f.)</i>	slave-girl, maidservant
<i>animal, animalis (n.)</i>	animal
<i>annus, -i (m.)</i>	year
<i>ante (+ acc.)</i>	before, in front of
<i>antequam</i>	before
<i>appropinquo, appropinquare, appropinquavi, appropinquatum (+ dat.)</i>	I approach
<i>aqua, -ae (f.)</i>	water
<i>arma, -orum (n. pl.)</i>	arms, weapons
<i>audax, audacis</i>	bold, daring
<i>audio, audire, audivi, auditum</i>	I hear, listen to
<i>aurum, -i (n.)</i>	gold
<i>aut</i>	or
<i>autem</i>	however, but
<i>auxilium, -i (n.)</i>	help, aid
<i>bellum, -i (n.)</i>	war
<i>bene</i>	well
<i>bibo, bibere, bibi</i>	I drink
<i>bonus, -a, -um</i>	good
<i>caelum, -i (n.)</i>	sky, heaven
<i>canto, cantare, cantavi, cantatum</i>	I sing
<i>capio, capere, cepi, captum</i>	I take, capture
<i>captivus, -i (m.)</i>	captive, prisoner
<i>carus, -a, -um</i>	dear
<i>celeriter</i>	quickly
<i>cena, -ae (f.)</i>	dinner, meal
<i>centum</i>	a hundred
<i>ceteri, -ae, -a</i>	the rest, the others
<i>cibus, -i (m.)</i>	food
<i>circum (+ acc.)</i>	around

<i>civis, civis (c.)</i>	citizen
<i>clamo, clamare, clamavi, clamatum</i>	I shout
<i>clamor, clamoris (m.)</i>	shout, shouting, noise
<i>clarus, -a, -um</i>	famous, clear, bright
<i>cogo, cogere, coegi, coactum</i>	I compel, force, gather
<i>colligo, colligere, collegi, collectum</i>	I gather, collect
<i>comes, comitis (c.)</i>	companion
<i>consilium, -i (n.)</i>	plan, advice
<i>conspicio, conspicere, conspexi, conspectum</i>	I catch sight of, notice
<i>constituo, constituere, constitui, constitutum</i>	I decide
<i>consumo, consumere, consumpsi, consumptum</i>	I eat, consume
<i>contendo, contendere, contendi, contentum</i>	I hurry, march, strive
<i>contra (+ acc.)</i>	against
<i>convenio, convenire, conveni, conventum</i>	I come together, gather, meet
<i>corpus, corporis (n.)</i>	body
<i>cras</i>	tomorrow
<i>credo, credere, credidi, creditum (+ dat.)</i>	I believe, trust
<i>crudelis, crudele</i>	cruel
<i>cum (+ abl.)</i>	with
<i>cupio, cupere, cupivi, cupitum</i>	I want, desire
<i>cur?</i>	why?
<i>curro, currere, cucurri, cursum</i>	I run
<i>custodio, custodire, custodivi, custoditum</i>	I guard
<i>custos, custodis (m.)</i>	guard
<i>de (+ abl.)</i>	down from, about, concerning
<i>dea, -ae (f.)</i>	goddess
<i>debeo, debere, debui, debitum</i>	I owe, ought, must
<i>decem</i>	ten
<i>defendo, defendere, defendi, defensum</i>	I defend
<i>deinde</i>	then, next
<i>deleo, delere, delevi, deletum</i>	I destroy
<i>deus, -i (m.)</i>	god
<i>dico, dicere, dixi, dictum</i>	I say, speak, tell
<i>dies, diei (m.)</i>	day
<i>difficilis, difficile</i>	difficult
<i>discedo, discedere, discessi, discessum</i>	I depart, leave
<i>diu</i>	for a long time
<i>do, dare, dedi, datum</i>	I give
<i>domina, -ae (f.)</i>	mistress, lady
<i>dominus, -i (m.)</i>	master, lord
<i>domus, -us (f.)</i>	home, house
<i>donum, -i (n.)</i>	gift, present
<i>dormio, dormire, dormivi, dormitum</i>	I sleep
<i>duco, ducere, duxi, ductum</i>	I lead
<i>duo, duae, duo</i>	two
<i>e / ex (+ abl.)</i>	out of, from
<i>effugio, effugere, effugi</i>	I escape
<i>ego</i>	I
<i>eo, ire, ii / ivi, itum</i>	I go
<i>epistula, -ae (f.)</i>	letter
<i>equus, -i (m.)</i>	horse
<i>erro, errare, erravi, erratum</i>	I wander, make a mistake
<i>et</i>	and

<i>etiam</i>	also, even
<i>exeo, exire, exii, exitum</i>	I go out
<i>exspecto, exspectare, exspectavi, exspectatum</i>	I wait for, expect
<i>facilis, facile</i>	easy
<i>facio, facere, feci, factum</i>	I do, make
<i>felix, felicitas</i>	lucky, fortunate, happy
<i>femina, -ae (f.)</i>	woman
<i>fero, ferre, tuli, latum</i>	I bring, carry, bear
<i>fessus, -a, -um</i>	tired
<i>festino, festinare, festinavi, festinatum</i>	I hurry
<i>fides, fidei (f.)</i>	faith, trust, loyalty
<i>filia, -ae (f.)</i>	daughter
<i>filius, -i (m.)</i>	son
<i>flumen, fluminis (n.)</i>	river
<i>forte</i>	by chance
<i>fortis, forte</i>	brave, strong
<i>fortiter</i>	bravely
<i>forum, -i (n.)</i>	forum, market-place
<i>frater, fratris (m.)</i>	brother
<i>frustra</i>	in vain
<i>fugio, fugere, fugi</i>	I flee, run away
<i>gens, gentis (f.)</i>	race, tribe, people
<i>gladius, -i (m.)</i>	sword
<i>Graecia, -ae (f.)</i>	Greece
<i>Graecus, -a, -um</i>	Greek
<i>habeo, habere, habui, habitum</i>	I have, hold
<i>habito, habitare, habitavi, habitatum</i>	I live, dwell
<i>hasta, -ae (f.)</i>	spear
<i>heri</i>	yesterday
<i>hic (adv.)</i>	here
<i>hic, haec, hoc</i>	this
<i>hodie</i>	today
<i>homo, hominis (m.)</i>	man, human being
<i>hora, -ae (f.)</i>	hour
<i>hortus, -i (m.)</i>	garden
<i>hostis, hostis (m.)</i>	enemy
<i>iam</i>	now, already
<i>ibi</i>	there
<i>idem, eadem, idem</i>	the same
<i>igitur</i>	therefore
<i>ille, illa, illud</i>	that, he, she, it
<i>in (+ acc.)</i>	into, onto
<i>in (+ abl.)</i>	in, on
<i>incola, -ae (c.)</i>	inhabitant
<i>ingens, ingentis</i>	huge, enormous
<i>inquit / inquiunt</i>	he/she says, they say
<i>insula, -ae (f.)</i>	island, block of flats
<i>inter (+ acc.)</i>	among, between
<i>interea</i>	meanwhile
<i>interficio, interficere, interfeci, interfectum</i>	I kill
<i>intro, intrare, intravi, intratum</i>	I enter
<i>invenio, invenire, inveni, inventum</i>	I find
<i>ipse, ipsa, ipsum</i>	himself, herself, itself

<i>ira, -ae (f.)</i>	anger
<i>iratus, -a, -um</i>	angry
<i>is, ea, id</i>	he, she, it; that
<i>itaque</i>	and so, therefore
<i>iter, itineris (n.)</i>	journey, route
<i>iterum</i>	again
<i>iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussum</i>	I order
<i>iuvenis, iuvenis (m.)</i>	young man
<i>labor, laboris (m.)</i>	work, toil
<i>laboro, laborare, laboravi, laboratum</i>	I work
<i>laetus, -a, -um</i>	happy, glad
<i>laudo, laudare, laudavi, laudatum</i>	I praise
<i>lego, legere, legi, lectum</i>	I read, choose
<i>lente</i>	slowly
<i>liber, libri (m.)</i>	book
<i>libero, liberare, liberavi, liberatum</i>	I free, set free
<i>libertus, -i (m.)</i>	freedman
<i>locus, -i (m.)</i>	place
<i>longus, -a, -um</i>	long
<i>ludo, ludere, lusi, lusum</i>	I play
<i>lux, lucis (f.)</i>	light
<i>magister, magistri (m.)</i>	master, teacher
<i>magnopere</i>	greatly
<i>magnus, -a, -um</i>	big, great, large
<i>malus, -a, -um</i>	bad, evil
<i>maneo, manere, mansi, mansum</i>	I remain, stay
<i>manus, -us (f.)</i>	hand, band (of men)
<i>mare, maris (n.)</i>	sea
<i>maritus, -i (m.)</i>	husband
<i>mater, matris (f.)</i>	mother
<i>medius, -a, -um</i>	middle, the middle of
<i>meus, -a, -um</i>	my, mine
<i>miles, militis (m.)</i>	soldier
<i>mille (pl. milia)</i>	thousand
<i>miser, misera, miserum</i>	wretched, miserable
<i>mitto, mittere, misi, missum</i>	I send
<i>moneo, monere, monui, monitum</i>	I warn, advise
<i>mons, montis (m.)</i>	mountain
<i>mors, mortis (f.)</i>	death
<i>mortuus, -a, -um</i>	dead
<i>moveo, movere, movi, motum</i>	I move
<i>mox</i>	soon
<i>multus, -a, -um</i>	much, many
<i>murus, -i (m.)</i>	wall
<i>nam</i>	for
<i>narro, narrare, narravi, narratum</i>	I tell, relate
<i>nauta, -ae (m.)</i>	sailor
<i>navigo, navigare, navigavi, navigatum</i>	I sail
<i>navis, navis (f.)</i>	ship
<i>-ne?</i>	(introduces a question)
<i>nec / neque</i>	and not, nor; neque ... neque, neither ... nor
<i>neco, necare, necavi, necatum</i>	I kill
<i>nemo, gen. nullius / neminis</i>	no one, nobody

<i>nihil</i>	nothing
<i>nobilis, nobile</i>	noble
<i>noli / nolite</i>	do not (+ infinitive)
<i>nolo, nolle, nolui</i>	I do not want, am unwilling
<i>nomen, nominis (n.)</i>	name
<i>non</i>	not
<i>nonne?</i>	surely? (expects yes)
<i>nos</i>	we, us
<i>noster, nostra, nostrum</i>	our
<i>notus, -a, -um</i>	well-known, famous
<i>novus, -a, -um</i>	new
<i>nox, noctis (f.)</i>	night
<i>num?</i>	surely not? (expects no)
<i>numquam</i>	never
<i>nunc</i>	now
<i>nuntio, nuntiare, nuntiavi, nuntiatum</i>	I announce, report
<i>nuntius, -i (m.)</i>	messenger, message
<i>occupo, occupare, occupavi, occupatum</i>	I seize, occupy
<i>olim</i>	once, long ago
<i>omnis, omne</i>	all, every
<i>oppugno, oppugnare, oppugnavi, oppugnatum</i>	I attack
<i>opus, operis (n.)</i>	work, task
<i>ostendo, ostendere, ostendi, ostentum</i>	I show
<i>paene</i>	almost
<i>parens, parentis (c.)</i>	parent
<i>paro, parare, paravi, paratum</i>	I prepare, get ready
<i>pars, partis (f.)</i>	part
<i>parvus, -a, -um</i>	small, little
<i>pater, patris (m.)</i>	father
<i>patria, -ae (f.)</i>	homeland, country
<i>pauci, -ae, -a</i>	few
<i>pecunia, -ae (f.)</i>	money
<i>pello, pellere, pepuli, pulsum</i>	I drive, push
<i>per (+ acc.)</i>	through, along
<i>pereo, perire, perii, peritum</i>	I perish, die
<i>periculum, -i (n.)</i>	danger
<i>persuadeo, persuadere, persuasi, persuasum + dat</i>	I persuade
<i>peto, petere, petivi, petitum</i>	I seek, ask for, make for
<i>poeta, -ae (m.)</i>	poet
<i>pono, ponere, posui, positum</i>	I place, put
<i>porto, portare, portavi, portatum</i>	I carry
<i>possum, posse, potui</i>	I am able, can
<i>post (+ acc.)</i>	after, behind
<i>postea</i>	afterwards
<i>postquam</i>	after
<i>praemium, -i (n.)</i>	reward, prize
<i>primus, -a, -um</i>	first
<i>princeps, principis (m.)</i>	chief, leader, emperor
<i>pro (+ abl.)</i>	in front of, on behalf of, for
<i>proelium, -i (n.)</i>	battle
<i>prope (+ acc.)</i>	near
<i>propter (+ acc.)</i>	because of, on account of
<i>puella, -ae (f.)</i>	girl

<i>puer, pueri (m.)</i>	boy
<i>pugno, pugnare, pugnavi, pugnatum</i>	I fight
<i>pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum</i>	beautiful, handsome
<i>punio, punire, punivi, punitum</i>	I punish
<i>quaero, quaerere, quaesivi, quaesitum</i>	I search for, ask
<i>quam</i>	than; how
<i>quamquam</i>	although
<i>-que</i>	and
<i>qui, quae, quod</i>	who, which
<i>quid?</i>	what?
<i>quis?</i>	who?
<i>quod</i>	because
<i>quoque</i>	also, too
<i>redeo, redire, redii, reditum</i>	I return, go back
<i>regina, -ae (f.)</i>	queen
<i>rego, regere, rexī, rectum</i>	I rule
<i>relinquo, relinquere, reliqui, relictum</i>	I leave, abandon
<i>res, rei (f.)</i>	thing, matter, affair
<i>respondeo, respondere, respondi, responsum</i>	I reply, answer
<i>rex, regis (m.)</i>	king
<i>rideo, ridere, risi, risum</i>	I laugh, smile
<i>rogo, rogare, rogavi, rogatum</i>	I ask
<i>Roma, -ae (f.)</i>	Rome
<i>Romanus, -a, -um</i>	Roman
<i>ruo, ruere, rui, rutum</i>	I rush
<i>sacer, sacra, sacrum</i>	sacred, holy
<i>saepe</i>	often
<i>saevus, -a, -um</i>	savage, cruel
<i>sagitta, -ae (f.)</i>	arrow
<i>saluto, salutare, salutavi, salutatum</i>	I greet
<i>sapiens, sapientis</i>	wise
<i>scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptum</i>	I write
<i>scutum, -i (n.)</i>	shield
<i>se</i>	himself, herself, itself, themselves
<i>sed</i>	but
<i>semper</i>	always
<i>senex, senis (m.)</i>	old man
<i>servo, servare, servavi, servatum</i>	I save, protect
<i>servus, -i (m.)</i>	slave
<i>sic</i>	thus, in this way
<i>silva, -ae (f.)</i>	wood, forest
<i>sine (+ abl.)</i>	without
<i>socius, -i (m.)</i>	ally, companion
<i>solus, -a, -um</i>	alone, only
<i>somnus, -i (m.)</i>	sleep
<i>soror, sororis (f.)</i>	sister
<i>specto, spectare, spectavi, spectatum</i>	I look at, watch
<i>spes, spei (f.)</i>	hope
<i>statim</i>	at once, immediately
<i>sto, stare, steti, statum</i>	I stand
<i>sub (+ abl.)</i>	under, beneath
<i>subito</i>	suddenly
<i>sum, esse, fui</i>	I am

<i>super (+ acc.)</i>	over, above
<i>superbus, -a, -um</i>	proud, arrogant
<i>supero, superare, superavi, superatum</i>	I overcome, defeat
<i>suus, -a, -um</i>	his, her, its, their (own)
<i>taceo, tacere, tacui, tacitum</i>	I am silent
<i>tamen</i>	however
<i>tandem</i>	at last, finally
<i>telum, -i (n.)</i>	weapon, spear
<i>tempestas, tempestatis (f.)</i>	storm
<i>templum, -i (n.)</i>	temple
<i>teneo, tenere, tenui, tentum</i>	I hold
<i>terra, -ae (f.)</i>	land, earth, ground
<i>terreo, terrere, terrui, territum</i>	I frighten, terrify
<i>timeo, timere, timui</i>	I fear, am afraid
<i>totus, -a, -um</i>	whole, all
<i>trado, tradere, tradidi, traditum</i>	I hand over, hand down
<i>traho, trahere, traxi, tractum</i>	I drag, pull
<i>trans (+ acc.)</i>	across
<i>transeo, transire, transii, transitum</i>	I cross
<i>tres, tria</i>	three
<i>tristis, triste</i>	sad
<i>tu</i>	you (singular)
<i>tum</i>	then
<i>turba, -ae (f.)</i>	crowd
<i>tutus, -a, -um</i>	safe
<i>tuus, -a, -um</i>	your, yours (singular)
<i>ubi</i>	when; where
<i>ubi?</i>	where?
<i>unda, -ae (f.)</i>	wave
<i>unus, -a, -um</i>	one
<i>urbs, urbis (f.)</i>	city
<i>uxor, uxoris (f.)</i>	wife
<i>validus, -a, -um</i>	strong
<i>venio, venire, veni, ventum</i>	I come
<i>ventus, -i (m.)</i>	wind
<i>verbum, -i (n.)</i>	word
<i>vester, vestra, vestrum</i>	your, yours (plural)
<i>via, -ae (f.)</i>	road, street, way
<i>video, videre, vidi, visum</i>	I see
<i>villa, -ae (f.)</i>	house, villa
<i>vinco, vincere, vici, victum</i>	I conquer, win
<i>vinum, -i (n.)</i>	wine
<i>vir, viri (m.)</i>	man
<i>virtus, virtutis (f.)</i>	courage, virtue
<i>vivus, -a, -um</i>	alive, living
<i>voco, vocare, vocavi, vocatum</i>	I call
<i>volo, velle, volui</i>	I want, wish
<i>vos</i>	you (plural)
<i>vox, vocis (f.)</i>	voice, shout
<i>vulnero, vulnerare, vulneravi, vulneratum</i>	I wound
<i>vulnus, vulneris (n.)</i>	wound

Cardinal numbers 1–10 (*unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque, sex, septem, octo, novem, decem*), the tens to 100, *centum* and *mille*, and the ordinals *primus* to *decimus*, are also prescribed.