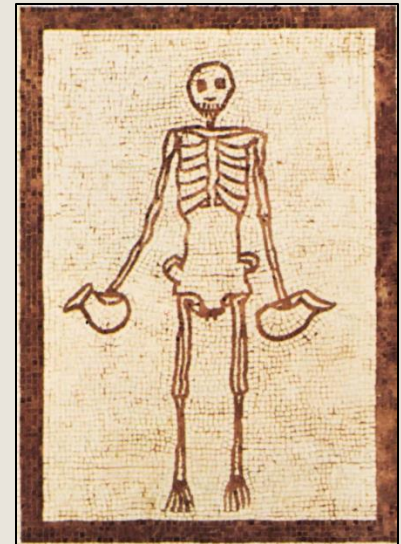# WHY TO STUDY LATIN (AND HOW)

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WHY TO STUDY LATIN

Latin is a dead language; why should I bother?

Is it really?

WHY TO STUDY LATIN

- 80% of English comes from Latin and Greek.

- 10% of all Latin has gone directly into English: video, quorum, agenda, exit, bonus, et cetera.

WHY TO STUDY LATIN

For **EXAMPLE**, every time you go to the **DOCTOR**, if you need a **MEDICINE**, or you want to be **FLEXIBLE** and **CIVIL** when you go to the **AQUARIUM** to see the **INCREDIBLE SPECIES** of **DIFFERENT ANIMALS** you need to **STUDY** for **BIOLOGY**.

WHY TO STUDY LATIN

Latin is useless…   Is it really?

2) It is actually used every day in:

- Scientific terms (*dentist*, *nucleus*, *calories*, *malnutrition*…)
- Legal terms (*habeas corpus*, *prosecutor*, *bona fide*…)
- Common phrases (*carpe diem*, *cogito ergo sum*…)
- Abbreviations (e.g. *exempli gratia*, PS *post scriptum*, AD *anno domini*…)
- Literature (*Severus*, *expelliarmus*, *petrificus totalis*…)

WHY TO STUDY LATIN

3) Value added to your degree:

- Understand sources for yourself: graffiti, letters, coins, poetry, laws, tombstones

- Learning about the Roman culture, literature, art, way of thinking and more

WHY TO STUDY LATIN

4) It's difficult:

- Get better at memorizing, time management, written tests, translating, impressing people

2025-26 Latin-Greek Modules

From scratch (Dr Nicolò Benzi):

- CLAS4006 Beginners' Ancient Languages 1 (Spring Term)
- CLAS3650 Beginners' Ancient Languages 2 (Summer Term)

Post-GCSE (Dr Dunstan Lowe):

- CLAS5013 Intermediate Ancient Languages 2 (Spring Term)
- CLAS5014 Intermediate Ancient Languages 2 (Summer Term)

Several years' experience? Talk to us about your options

LATIN LANGUAGE: VERBS

- I
- You ("thou")
- He/she/it
- We
- You (y'all)
- They

amo: I love
amas: you love
amat: he loves
amamus: we love
amatis: you love
amant: they love

scio: I know
scis: you know
scit: he knows
scimus: we know
scitis: you know
sciunt: they know

LATIN LANGUAGE: NOUNS

- Nominative (doer):   *servus* = slave   *filia* = daughter
- Accusative (done to:)   *servum*   *filiam*
- Genitive (of x):   *servi*   *filiae*

SENTENCES: PUZZLES AND CODING

- Verb (action words):
  amo = I love
  scio = I know

- Nouns (thing words):
  servus = slave
  filia = daughter

- conjunctions (linkages):
  sed = but
  et = and

1. Amo filiam.
2. Filia amat servum.
3. Filia servum amat.
4. Servum amat filia.
5. Servus amat filiam et filia scit.
6. Amo filiae servum, sed me non amat.

LATIN LITERATURE: CATULLUS 85

Odi et amo. quare id faciam, fortasse requiris?
Nescio. sed fieri sentio et excrucior.

= I hate her and I love her. Perhaps you ask why I do that?
I don't know. But I feel it happening, and I am tortured.

vobis gratias ago.

Thanks.

rogationes?

Questions?

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