

AP[®] Latin

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP Latin Course Overview

The AP Latin course focuses on the in-depth study of selections from two of the greatest works in Latin literature: Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic War*. The course requires students to prepare and translate the readings and place these texts in a meaningful context, which helps develop critical, historical, and literary sensitivities. Throughout the course, students consider themes in the context of ancient literature and bring these works to life through classroom discussions, debates, and presentations. Additional English readings from both of these works help place the Latin readings in a significant context.

AP Latin is approximately equivalent to an upper-intermediate (typically fourth- or fifth- semester) college or university Latin course.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites; however, students are typically in their fourth year of high-school-level study.

AP Latin Course Content

The course content is organized into eight units that align with the required syllabus readings for the *Aeneid* and the *Gallic War*:

- **Unit 1:** Vergil, *Aeneid*, Book 1
- **Unit 2:** Caesar, *Gallic War*, Books 1 and 6
- **Unit 3:** Vergil, *Aeneid*, Book 2
- **Unit 4:** Caesar, *Gallic War*, Book 4
- **Unit 5:** Vergil, *Aeneid*, Book 4
- **Unit 6:** Caesar, *Gallic War*, Book 5 Part I
- **Unit 7:** Caesar, *Gallic War*, Book 5 Part II, Book 6, and Book 7
- **Unit 8:** Vergil, *Aeneid*, Books 6, 8, and 12

Each unit is broken down into teachable segments called readings.

Course Skills

The following skill categories describe what skills students should develop during the course:

- **Reading and Comprehension:** Read and comprehend Latin poetry and prose.
- **Translation:** Translate Latin texts into English.
- **Contextualization:** Relate Latin texts to Roman historical, cultural, and literary contexts.
- **Textual Analysis:** Analyze linguistic and literary features of Latin texts.
- **Argumentation:** Develop an argument that analyzes Latin poetry and/or prose.

Course Themes

The following seven themes promote an integration of language, course content, and culture, and provide connections that enrich student understanding of Roman civilization:

- Literary Style and Genre
- Roman Values
- War and Empire
- Leadership
- Views of Non-Romans
- History and Memory
- Human Beings and the Gods

AP Latin Exam Structure

AP LATIN EXAM: 3 HOURS

Assessment Overview

The AP Latin Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 3 hours long and includes 50 multiple-choice questions and 5 free-response questions.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple-choice | 50 Questions | 1 Hour |
50% of Exam Score

- Syllabus reading: Vergil and Caesar (20–24 Questions)
- Sight reading: Poetry and Prose (26–30 Questions)

Section II: Free-response | 5 Questions | 2 Hours |
50% of Exam Score

- Question 1: Translation: Vergil
- Question 2: Translation: Caesar
- Question 3: Analytical essay
- Question 4: Short-answer: Vergil
- Question 5: Short-answer: Caesar

Exam Components

Sample Multiple-Choice Question

Syllabus Reading: Caesar

Becoming a Gallic priest.

Druides a bello abesse consuerunt neque tributa una cum reliquis pendunt; militiae vacationem omniumque rerum habent immunitatem. Tantis excitati praemiis et sua sponte multi in disciplinam

5 conveniunt et a parentibus propinquisque mittuntur. Magnum ibi numerum versuum ediscere dicuntur. Itaque annos nonnulli XX in disciplina permanent.

According to lines 1–5 (Druides . . . mittuntur), many Gauls were attracted to the priesthood because Druids

- (A) are exempt from military service
- (B) receive tribute from the rest of society
- (C) are allowed to take frequent vacations
- (D) live apart from their parents and relatives

Sample Free-Response Question

Translation: Vergil

Charon complains.

Umbrarum hic locus est, somni noctisque soporae:
corpora viva nefas Stygia¹ vectare carina.²
Nec vero Alciden³ me sum laetatus euntem
accepisse lacu, nec Thesea⁴ Pirithoumque,
5 dis⁵ quamquam geniti atque invicti viribus essent.

¹Stygius, -a, -um: Stygian, of the river Styx

²carina, -ae, f.: boat

³Alciden: acc. sing. of Alcides, -ae, m.: Hercules

⁴Thesea: acc. sing. of Theseus, -eos, m.: Theseus

⁵dis = de

Aeneid 6. 390–394

Translate the passage above as literally as possible.