



## **An Introduction to Latin Continuers Stage 6 in the New HSC**

The new *Latin Continuers Stage 6 Syllabus* replaces the current syllabus in 2 Unit Latin (1992). The new syllabus is to be implemented with Year 11 in 2000 and will be first examined in 2001.

The syllabus provides information that was formerly available in the *Languages KLA Handbook*. This includes descriptions of course requirements, course prescriptions, assessment weightings for internal and external assessment and examination specifications.

### ***What is similar?***

The new *Latin Continuers Stage 6 Syllabus* represents a minor change to the current 2 Unit syllabus. While the new syllabus varies in its structure and elaboration of content, it is similar in intent and in method of assessment to the current syllabus. The skills of translation and analysis of texts are implicit in the three objectives and are assessed in both the internal and external assessment.

### ***What are the overall improvements?***

- The syllabus makes explicit what students are required to know and do.
- The syllabus objectives represent the skills of translating original Latin text into English and analysing prescribed Latin texts, both in the original Latin and in translation.
- The language content is specified by prescribing grammatical forms and a vocabulary list that students are expected to know.
- The study of literary techniques is specified in terms of the stylistic features and literary terms with which students are expected to be familiar.
- Texts are recommended for the study of Latin in the Preliminary course and prescribed for the HSC course. The syllabus gives a clear indication of the nature and rotation of HSC prescriptions over time.
- Assessment, both internal and external, is linked to the syllabus objectives and content.

*The following changes have been made to particular sections of the course*

**Rationale, Aims and Objectives (p 6 and p 10)**

The syllabus provides a comprehensive rationale for studying Latin, and has a clear set of aims and objectives, which provide statements of the overall purpose and the intent of the syllabus.

Objectives focus on the knowledge, skills and understanding involved in understanding seen and unseen texts written in the original Latin; understanding the linguistic and stylistic features and cultural references in prescribed Latin texts; and understanding the prescribed texts as works of literature.

**Outcomes (p 12)**

This syllabus supports an outcomes-based approach to teaching and learning. The outcomes are designed so that students of Latin can demonstrate what they know and can do as a result of teaching and learning in the course. The outcomes are derived from the objectives.

**Content (pp 14–37)**

Texts in Latin provide the organisational focus of the syllabus content.

Texts are studied from both the linguistic and literary perspectives.

Linguistic features are described in terms of vocabulary and grammar. A vocabulary list, with which students are expected to be familiar, is specified. Grammatical forms, features, usage and constructions which students are expected to recognise and analyse are identified, with examples provided.

The study of texts is described in terms of texts either recommended (for the Preliminary course) or prescribed (for the HSC course), stylistic features and literary terms. Texts prescribed for study are similar to or the same as those prescribed in the current syllabus.

### **Assessment (pp 40–49)**

The assessment is aligned to the syllabus objectives and content. Students will be required to demonstrate achievement of the full range of outcomes across the internal and external assessment components.

The internal assessment specifies the components to be assessed and their weightings, as well as suggesting a variety of tasks that may be undertaken. This ensures that a student's achievement can be measured against a wider range of syllabus content and outcomes than may be covered by the external assessment alone.

In the external assessment students will be assessed on their ability to:

- translate prescribed and unseen prose and verse texts into English
- analyse grammatical features of the prescribed texts
- comment on the stylistic, cultural and literary aspects of the prescribed texts.

### ***What will be needed to teach this subject?***

- *Latin Continuers Stage 6 Syllabus.*
- *Latin Continuers Higher School Certificate Examination, Assessment and Reporting Supplement* (the sample examination, marking guidelines and draft performance scale).

Current resources are appropriate for use with the new syllabus.

Text books and resource materials that support the learning of Latin will continue to apply as the texts are similar to those in current syllabuses.

A list of a limited number of resources will be placed on the Board's website (<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>).

The Board of Studies will also provide assessment support materials, which will be generic across subjects.

Cross-sectoral professional development workshops (Department of Education and Training, Association of Independent Schools and Catholic Education Commission schools) for Stage 6 Continuers languages will be held. Venues and dates for these workshops have been published on the *New HSC* website — <http://www.newhsc.schools.nsw.edu.au> — and distributed to schools. The materials from these workshops will be available on this website.

*Curriculum Support for Teaching in Languages 7–12* — a series of newsletters developed by the Department of Education and Training — will carry an HSC supplement.

*Assessment and Reporting Bulletin* — published each term as a joint venture of the Department of Education and Training, the Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools — will build on principles outlined in Board of Studies' newsletters and assessment support materials.