



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Commentary Introduction Intensive Latin 2 2023

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

1,500 word commentary exercise

- This is a new type of assessment within the Intensive modules – but more familiar if you have taken non-linguistic modules
- The starting point is a selected, unadapted Latin text. You need to produce your own, independent, translation (annotating it where necessary) and provide a commentary discussing the language, content, and context of the text

Benefits of doing a commentary

- This will be our first foray into working with unadapted, authentic Latin text
- It is essential preparation for both independent work with Latin and for Latin Advanced modules (where this assessment type is common)
- It allows you to consolidate skills in working with grammar, syntax and linguistic features using handbooks and dictionaries, while also beginning to work with the wider literary and historical contexts of Latin texts

Commentary and translation exercise

- The 1,500 word translation and commentary exercise must contain:
 - Your own independent translation of the chosen text passage.
 - Your own independent commentary on the chosen text passage.
 - A bibliography of works used, including ancient and modern sources.
- The bibliography does not contribute to the word count; however, any footnotes you may use, do.

What text? Virgil's *Aeneid*

- In preparation for the commentary exercise, we will read smalls section of unadapted Latin together taken from Virgil's *Aeneid* (book 1) in **Weeks 9** (w/c 17/04) and **10** (24/04).
- Deadline **assessed** commentary: **03 May 2023**.
- These sessions will introduce you tools available for commentary-writing, the typical content found in commentaries, and bibliography available. Further info on the *Aeneid* passages from which you will pick your passage will be made available in due course.

Key resources for writing any commentary

- Advanced dictionary – you may use the online version of Lewis and Short – to help find constructions and parallel usages
 - Advanced grammar and syntax handbook – Gildersleeve and Lodge (available online) will be useful – to help explain constructions; a useful source for metrical patterns (<https://archive.org/details/gildersleeveslat00gilduoft>).
 - Allen and Greenhough's *Latin Grammar* (<https://dcc.dickinson.edu/grammar/latin/alphabet>).
 - Existing commentaries on the text at hand.
- Standard translations often also have notes on the text, either as footnotes or as an appendix. These basic resources will allow you to produce a valid, text-focussed commentary, particularly if you take into account the bibliographical references they contain