

The Updated National Latin Exam Can Serve HS and Post-Secondary Students

The National Latin Exam has been given in middle and high schools for many years. More recently Latin programs at the college level have begun to offer it, particularly in the early semesters. It is a relatively short 40 questions, multiple-choice exam, that can be taken inside a one-hour class period, and that includes questions on grammar, vocabulary, derivatives, and reading, and includes a few cultural, mythological, historical, and geographical items. This last component has sometimes been an issue at the college level. A second issue is that the exam curriculum may not fit well with college semester courses.

Recent updates to the exam topics and format, as well as more flexible registration options, make it more versatile for everyone. We especially believe that the addition of two reading comprehension exams, at the intermediate and advanced levels, will be of interest to post-secondary programs. The availability of online testing may also appeal to some schools.

After a general overview of the history of the exam, this workshop will provide a look at the current exams and their syllabi, pointing out how they have been updated. The presenter, a member of the writing committee, will explain the goals and format of the exam, how it is graded, how award levels are set, and how our DEI readers ensure that the exams are accessible for all students. Participants will receive copies of the syllabus and of previous exams, and view websites with materials to help students prepare.

This proposal has been offered as a workshop since this session is less about literary or grammatical, or even pedagogical discussion, and more about providing opportunities for a hands-on examination of materials, along with the chance for participants to ask questions as

they consider whether the NLE would be of value in their classrooms. The presenter, besides being available to answer questions and receive suggestions about the exam at all levels, is especially interested in fostering discussion regarding the feasibility and value of offering the exam beyond high school.