

Improving Assessment in National Courses Research: National 5 Latin

Published: June 2026

Proposal

The following proposal was shared with learners and educators who stated they had taught or studied National 5 Latin:

- We are proposing making the Literary Appreciation exam for National 5 Latin shorter, reducing the time from 1 hour and 45 minutes to 1 hour and 20 minutes. We are proposing a reduction in the number of questions, to reduce the total marks from 60 marks to 40 marks. For each author, marks would be reduced from 30 marks to 20 marks.
- We are suggesting these changes to improve the exam experience for learners and for schools, while maintaining appropriate sampling of subject content.
- There are no proposed changes to the Translating question paper at this stage. The weightings of the two exams would remain the same.

The proposed changes for National 5 Latin are:

	Current marks	Current duration	Current weighting
Component 1 – Literary Appreciation	60	1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Component 2 – Translating	40	1 hour	50%

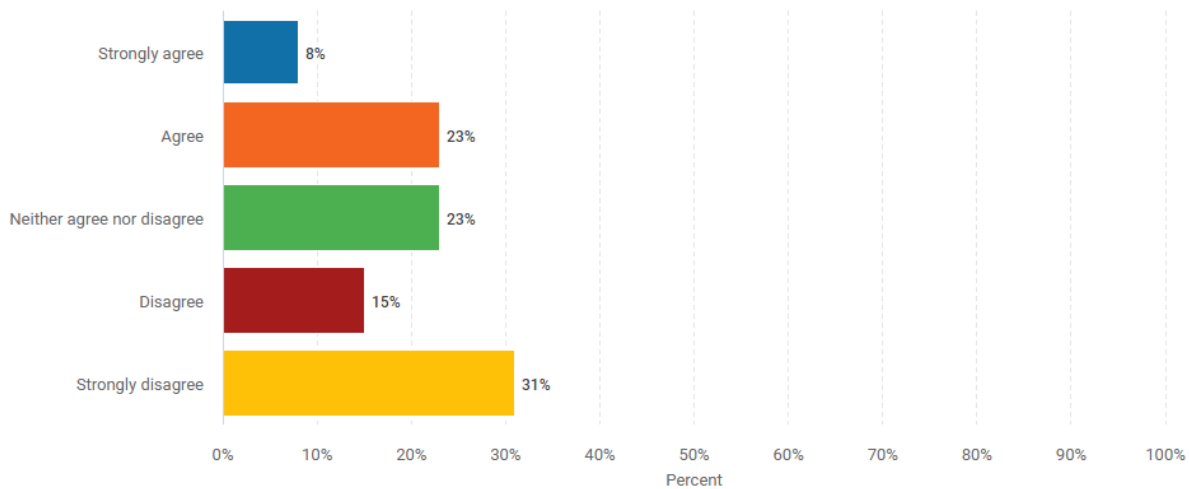
	Proposed marks	Proposed duration	Proposed weighting
Component 1 – Literary Appreciation	40	1 hour 20 minutes	50%
Component 2 – Translating	40	1 hour	50%

Findings: learners

We received responses from 13 learners who stated they had studied National 5 Latin.

Figure 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes for National 5 Latin?

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes for National 5 Latin?



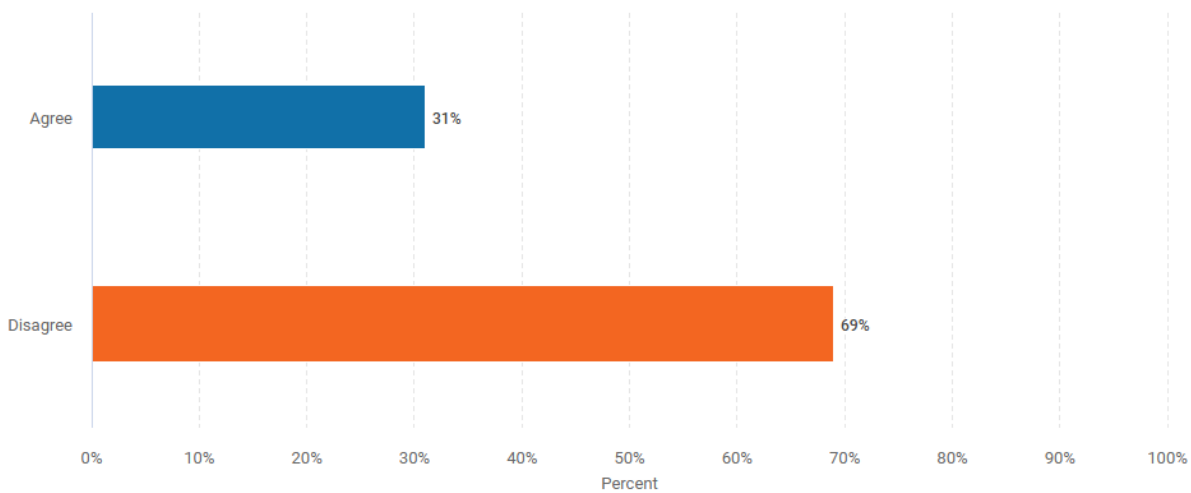
Base: 13 learners who stated they had studied National 5 Latin

As shown in Figure 1, the most common response (46%) from learner respondents was to disagree or strongly disagree with the proposed changes, while 31% agreed or strongly agreed.

Learner respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that the proposed changes should be made to National 5 Latin from the 2026–27 session, should the changes be made. As shown in Figure 2, the majority of learner respondents (69%) disagreed that the changes should be made from 2026–27, while 31% agreed.

Figure 2: In the event that the proposed changes are made for National 5 Latin, do you agree or disagree that this should happen from session 2026–27?

If the proposed changes are made for National 5 Latin, do you agree or disagree that this should happen from session 2026/27?



Base: 13 learners who stated they had studied National 5 Latin

Qualitative analysis

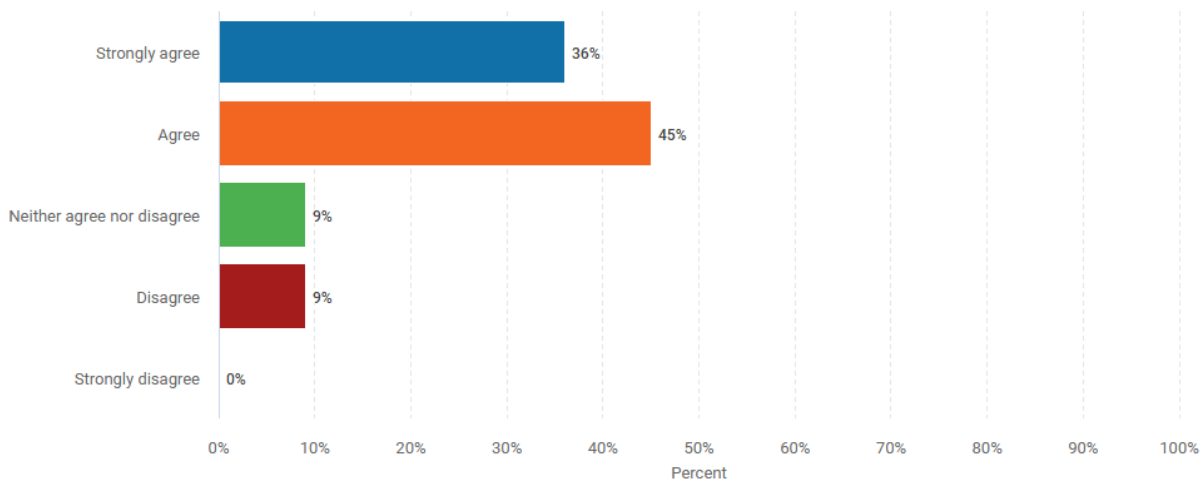
Learner respondents were asked if they had any further comments that they would like to share about the proposed changes to National 5 Latin. One respondent left a comment. They disagreed with the proposal and said that the Literary Appreciation paper is not required at all in the course as they felt it is currently weighted too heavily on learning and analysing texts rather than learning the language.

Findings: educators

We received responses from 11 educators who stated they had taught National 5 Latin. Educator respondents were asked whether the proposed changes should be made to National 5 Latin. As shown in Figure 3, the vast majority of educator respondents (82%) either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposed changes, while 9% disagreed.

Figure 3: To what extent do you agree with the proposed changes for National 5 Latin?

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes for National 5 Latin?

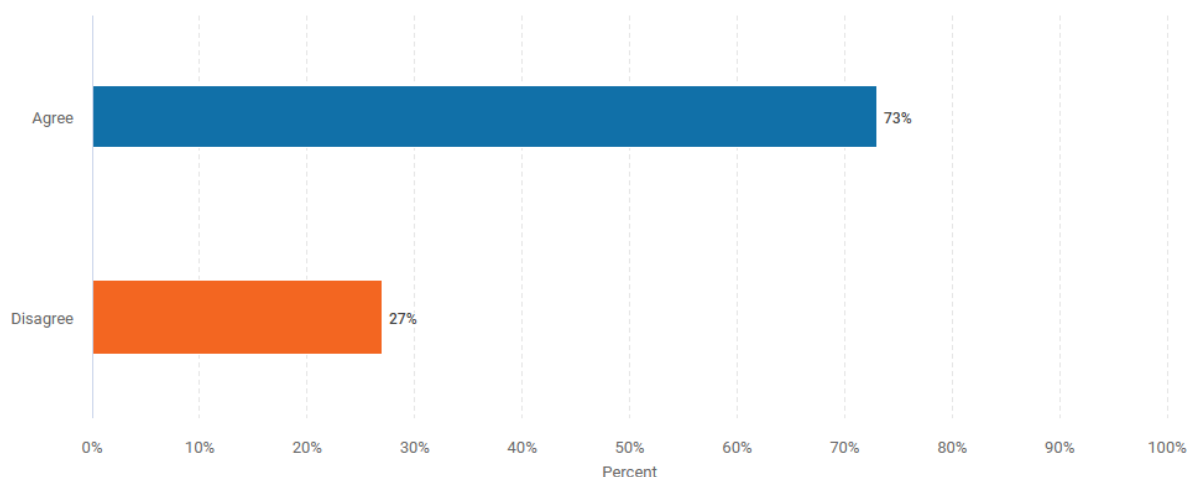


Base: 11 educators who stated they had taught National 5 Latin

Educator respondents were also asked whether, if the changes were to be made, they should be implemented in the 2026–27. As shown in Figure 4, a large majority (73%) of educator respondents agreed that the changes should happen from session 2026–27, against 27% who disagreed.

Figure 4: If the proposed changes are made for National 5 Latin, do you agree or disagree that this should happen from session 2026–27?

If the proposed changes are made for National 5 Latin, do you agree or disagree that this should happen from session 2026/27?



Base: 11 educators who stated they had taught National 5 Latin

Qualitative analysis

Educator respondents were asked if they had any further comments that they would like to share about the proposed changes to National 5 Latin. Five respondents left a comment.

Views on the proposed changes

Most were broadly in agreement with the proposed changes, with only one strongly disagreeing. Most of the comments received were in agreement with the proposal to reduce the length of the exam. One respondent explained that they felt the current National 5 Latin exam was too long, resulting in over-reliance on the set texts.

‘I agree with the proposed changes. The exam is currently on the long side for N5, and really exhausts the set texts at 30 marks.’

‘I think the length of set text should remain the same, but would support shortening the exam to assess this curriculum content’

One educator respondent did not agree with the proposed timing of the implementation of the changes, noting they felt there needed to be further consultation with all stakeholders and that 2027 session would be too soon for implementation. This was the only comment which made this point, and the majority of educator respondents were in favour of the proposed changes and timeline.

Conclusion

While the number of learners who study and educators who teach National 5 Latin is smaller than a lot of the other subjects in this survey, the response to this survey was particularly low. This raises questions about the reliability of the data, and readers should be wary of attempts to generalise these responses to the rest of the National 5 Latin learner and educator population. As such, professional judgement will need to be exercised when making a decision about the proposed changes.