

## Education

### 1. At what age did Roman children go to school?

At age 7, after having learned to read and write at home, boys and a few girls started school. Most girls however stayed at home. Upper class families might hire a tutor to continue a girls education at home.

### First Stage of Education

#### 2. Where was school held"?

In a rented room or an outdoor public area. A child would be escorted by a slave called a "**paedagogus**" who was responsible for the child. Another slave would carry his books.



#### 3. Was school free?

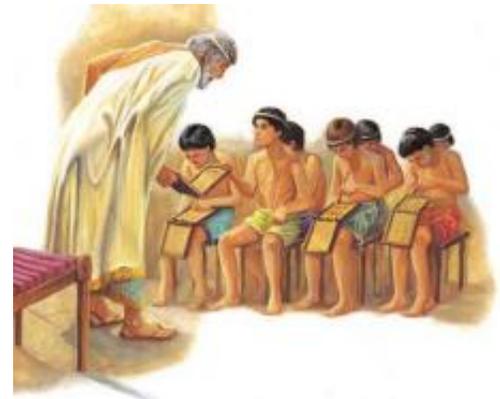
No. People had to pay for their children's' education.

#### 4. Who taught the first stage of education?

A "**magister ludi**".

#### 5. What did a child learn at this first stage?

He would learn to read and write Latin and Greek and some simple arithmetic.



#### 6. What type of materials were available at school?

**tabulae** - wooden tablets coated with wax.

**stilus** - a type of pen to scratch letters in the wax.

**papyrus** - only for writing finished works. It was made from reeds that grew in Egypt on the Nile River and was very expensive.

**goose-quill** - used with ink to write on papyrus

**benches** - students sat working with their books on their knees. There were no desks or blackboards.



## 7. How long did a school day last?

School started early and lasted for 6 hours with a short break for lunch.

## 8. How were children treated in school?

Discipline was very strict. Many Roman writers tell of memories of their school days with fear and recollections of frequent beatings.



**"Work hard, lest you be thrashed"**  
Written four times on a schoolboys' tabula as an object lesson.

## 9. How many days a year did children go to school?

There was no school every ninth day (market day), on public holidays (which there were many) and during the hot months of the summer (July to October).

## Second Stage of Education

### 10. Who taught the second stage of Education?

A "grammaticus".



### 11. Did all children go on to the second stage?

No. Only children of wealthier families went on to the second stage of education, usually at the age of 11.

### 12. What subjects were studied in the second stage?

Students read Latin and Greek literature. Greek works such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey and the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides and Latin works of Vergil and Horace. Students were required to memorize long sections of these works and commonly were able to recall them in their adulthood.

Grammar and geography were also taught.

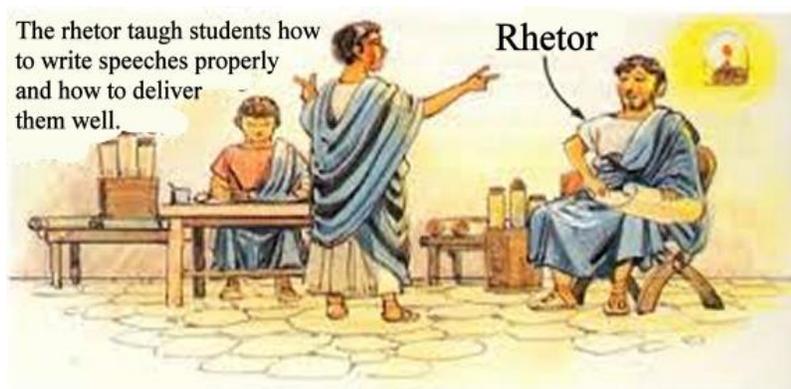
## Third Stage of Education

### 13. Who taught the second stage of Education?

A "rhetor".

### 14. What was taught in the third stage of education?

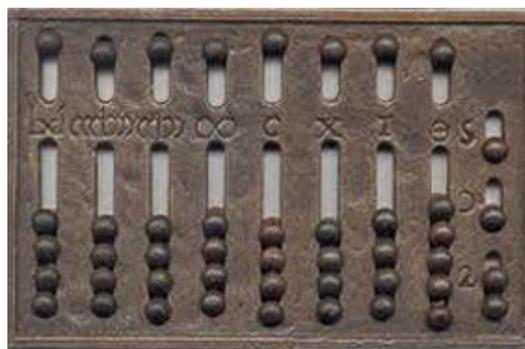
Few students went on to this stage of education. The students were taught an advanced literature and public speaking. Public speaking was considered essential to a career in politics and for entrance into the highest levels of Roman society. Students practiced making speeches and debating with each other. They learned to control their voices and emphasize their speech with gestures.



## Science and Technical Subjects

### 15. How was science and technology taught?

Science and technology were not part of the regular school curriculum. They were only taught to those who were going to engage in work that required this knowledge and were often learned on the job as an apprentice.



**This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.**