**How to Study Grammar for Certamen**

**Grammar is one of the main three categories of certamen. It counts as about 50% of all the questions. As a category, it is broken up into three sub-categories: Grammar syntax, vocabulary, and derivatives. The depth of the knowledge in each of these depends on the level of certamen: most basic at the novice division, more advanced at intermediate, and omniscient at advanced. Therefore, students must have a comprehensive knowledge of all three sub-categories for their given levels.**

1. Places to Start:

A. **Learn the first two declensions like the back of your hand.** Having a solid base in the formation of nouns and adjectives is essential to moving forward in the language.

B. **Learn the entirety of the present and perfect system for verbs of the 1st and 2nd declension.** Knowing how to form the different tenses is important to understanding the structure of sentences for the novice level.

C. **Have a relatively large vocabulary.** Use many different sources like Jenney's First Year Latin, Allen & Greenough's New Latin Grammar, and Latin Via Ovid to gain a large vocabulary base.

D. **Repeat charts in your head until you are insane.**

2. **The Next Step: Studying for Regionals (and beyond)**

A. **Make flashcards for vocabulary.**

B. **Practice sentences in your head or with some one else.**

C. **Write questions for your category similar to the ones you will hear in certamen.**

D. **Derivative packets can be found online at**

[**www.njcl.org/pages/njcl-certamen-references**](http://www.njcl.org/pages/njcl-certamen-references) **under Latin Derivatives**