

Why was Latin important?

Although Latin was not the native language of anyone during the Middle Ages, it remained important because it was used in the church, and by scholars and politicians from all countries as a language they could all understand.

English words derived from Latin

During the Old English period, a few Latin words spread into the English language. These words were often to do with church business, for example, **abbod** 'abbot', **munuc** 'monk', **sanct** 'saint'. More Latin words came into Middle English, often indirectly through French, such as **testament**, **omnipotent**, **purgatorie**. But most Latin words were taken into English during the Early and Late Modern English periods as speakers of English tried to make their language sound grander by borrowing Latin words and expressions.