

Scope and Sequence

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Q: I'm in the middle of The Latin Centered Curriculum, and I was wondering if there was anything in the recommended scope & sequence you would make changes to now if you wrote an updated version?

A: Probably the biggest changes I would make today would be in the reading lists and in acknowledging the changes in the educational landscape wrought by the Common Core.

In terms of reading lists, I'd include much more material from outside the Euro- American sphere and much earlier on. Core Knowledge does this fairly well for K-8. I'd also create a Life Philosophies course for high school that included representative texts from the major Abrahamic and non-Abrahamic faiths

(=World Religions), plus counterpoint readings (atheism, neopagan groups, etc.) for balance. I'd likely get rid of a couple of books that, in light of the current political scene, seem tone-deaf (e.g., Russell Kirk).

Because the Common Core has resulted in amped-up graduation requirements in many states, I'd likely encourage more math and science but offer alternatives to the standard sequences (more of the T and E in STEM, for example). I'm the first to admit that I'm no expert on STEM topics, though! We do have quite a few folks in this group who are great sources of info if you're looking for recommendations in those areas.

Yes, if you happy with the general scope and sequence of LCC, I would recommend CK primarily for their reading lists. Although it's meant for classrooms rather than homeschools, it's a solid secular program with a lot of free material available. The classical school I worked for used it as the basis for their lower school curriculum and just added in classical languages (and their religious perspective), so it can be used in a classical context with some tweaking. LCC basically blends influences from CK and Charlotte Mason with an emphasis on classical languages and cultures, so there's a lot more overlap there than might be immediately apparent.

I do think it makes sense to include more formal science in elementary school at this point, and MP has moved in that direction as well. It can still be largely based on nature but I would include some experiments as well as observation. If you do a search for science here, you'll find several in-depth discussions with recommendations for different age groups.