

Classical Civilisation

Exam Board: OCR



Course Summary

A Level Classical Civilisation looks at the literature and art that has captured people's imaginations for centuries, and from this asks what the Greeks and Romans believed, how they behaved and how their ideas have shaped Western civilisation.

You will consider The World of the Hero exploring both Greek and Roman epic, with the study of either Homer's 'Iliad' or Odyssey and Virgil's 'Aeneid'. The works of Homer are the foundation of the Western literary canon, and the Greeks themselves considered them the cornerstone of Greek culture. In his 'Aeneid' Virgil pays homage to Homer, but also to Rome and its leader, Augustus. With their unique composition, and exciting tales of gods and heroes, these works of literature form an excellent grounding for exploration of the classical world.

In Culture and the Arts you will consider the physical remains of the ancient world as crucial to its comprehensive understanding. Finally, in Beliefs and Ideas you explore concepts and ideals important not only to the ancient world but also to the modern one. From love to democracy, you will examine thought provoking and interesting concepts that will deepen your ability to evaluate and analyse ideas as well as sources.

Entry Requirements

Literature is studied in an English translation, and there is no Greek or Latin required on the course.

Course Assessment

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

Where might it lead?

As well as the further study of Classics at university, A Level Classical Civilisation is an excellent choice for those looking to continue studies in law, literature, history, philosophy and languages. The course in particular develops skills of analysis, research, questioning and debating.



There are numerous lively class discussions. Students also read extracts from ancient texts, analyse art and architecture and learn about the myths that shape societies, texts and art. JESILLE

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