

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Classical Civilisation is the ultimate humanities subject. It does not conform to traditional subject boundaries but is interdisciplinary, moving between literature, theatre, history of art and architecture, ideas, values, politics, psychology and history. A wide range of skills is involved (but no languages; texts are studied in up to date translations). The subject is very well resourced, with a very good range of wider reading available in the Library. All teaching is by a subject specialist.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (AS and A2 LEVEL OCR H008 and H048)

Do you know about the origins of western civilisation and culture? Myth, drama, theatre, politics, philosophy, democracy, architecture, tragedy, and comedy are all words from ancient Greece. To understand our cultural identity we need to explore its roots. This course offers an excellent introduction to the literature, ideas and visual arts of Greece, and the foundation epic of ancient Rome.

There is no coursework requirement. There is a stand alone AS available where students would complete 2 exams in year 12 . The full A level consists of 3 exams taken in year 13.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous study of Latin or classical civilisation is needed, everything is read in translation. You do however need to be a keen reader, and open minded. There will be weekly assignments in preparation for classes.

Unit 1: THE ODYSSEY

Homer composed the Odyssey over 2,500 years ago. It has been read and translated ever since, inspiring novelists, poets, story tellers and film makers. Find out why!

You will need to read independently. Learning strategies include discussion, preparing presentations on a theme, reading articles and exploration of storytelling as well as using different approaches to note making and essay writing. A willingness to work with other people and an open minded attitude are important.

Unit 2: GREEK THEATRE

Tracing the origins of western theatre, we will examine ancient art and architectural remains to understand how the ancient Greeks put on dramatic festivals alongside reading 3 plays; Oedipus the King by Sophocles, Bacchae by Euripides and the Frogs by Aristophanes. The plays are shocking, tense and fast moving – with an insight into human psychology especially in regards to their relationship with the gods and role in society. There will be plenty of opportunity for dramatic reading and wide ranging discussion (as well as essay planning and writing).

Unit 3: ROMAN EPIC: VIRGIL'S AENEID

The Aeneid is the story of Aeneas' mission to found Rome after his escape from the ruins of Troy. Virgil's mission is to explain the Roman character and origins to his contemporaries: how does a Trojan, a son of Venus, model the characteristics needed in Augustan Rome in the 1st century BC after years of upheaval and civil war? It is also a great adventure story.

Unit 4: GREEK RELIGION

Study the impact of religion on ancient Greece ranging from the impact on an individual's daily life to its place in political life. Explore the nature of divinity and the immortal's relationships with mortals – especially the surprising character of the gods and goddesses who can sometimes seem less than heavenly! The unit also includes the practicalities of ritual alongside the functions and layout of temples.

CAREERS/FURTHER INFORMATION

Classics is increasingly popular at sixth form and degree level. It provides transferable skills in reading and understanding, from close analysis to selecting significant passages; expressing a personal response to literary and visual material; essay writing, and listening and responding to other people's opinions. You will be encouraged to make connections with later European thinking, writing, and visual art.

Many universities offer Classics Courses, and it is a very good combination with English literature, Drama, or a language. Anyone thinking of studying Literature, Art, History of Art, Architecture, Archaeology, Philosophy or European studies would also find this course invaluable.

Please see <http://www.ocr.org.uk> for more information