

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

This course is becoming increasingly popular both at school and university level and offers a variety of topics from the Ancient Greek and Roman world.

You will be expected to study each topic in detail with special reference to selected texts and, since the material is all in English, you can explore the topics in depth and will have the opportunity to relate various works of literature to their social and cultural contexts.

You will be encouraged to appreciate literary technique, to collect relevant evidence and to develop and present arguments based on your findings. The course is not only literary but also involves the appreciation of social values and an understanding of both the historical and archaeological background. By the end of the course you will be able to appreciate distinctive Ancient Greek and Roman ways of thought and feeling.

The course also involves the aesthetic appreciation of works of art. You will learn how to look with discrimination and how to evaluate artistic merit. As well as studying art and literature in school there will be opportunities to attend performances of Greek plays and to visit museums in which material remains from the Ancient World are on display.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for AS or A-level Classical Civilisation.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Classical Civilisation will be of particular relevance to those of you studying English, History, Art or Drama. The ideas formulated in the Greco-Roman world have been fundamental to the development of medieval and modern Europe while the art and literature of that society have been dominant influences upon European writers and artists for many centuries.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Classical Civilisation is fully recognised by University Admissions Officers. You can study it in its own right at university or in combination with other subjects including a Classical language.

COURSE CONTENT

AS Units:

Homer's Odyssey And Society



Homer's Odyssey is the great Greek epic and one of the finest works in the Western literary canon. Not only do we study the text from a literary point of view, but also approach the text from historical, archeological and sociological contexts. We study the text's oral tradition, and its transmission, including when the epics were written down; the structure of the epic genre; narrative techniques; the language of Greek epic, including its formulae and similes. In this module we also focus deeply on the presentation of character, with particular focus on the Greek gods, and their role in human life; supernatural elements and magic; monsters; early Greek conceptions of realism and fantasy, and truth and falsehood; and finally disguise and recognition. The module also focuses on the social and cultural context in which Homer first composed the work; this includes studying the role of the Greek gods and their belief in fate; the concept of Greek heroism, including the ideas of honour (τιμη) and reputation (κλεος); their moral concepts, such as justice and revenge; archaic Greek life and society as portrayed by Homer; the role of women and their position in ancient Greek society; hospitality and guest friendships (ξενια); and slavery.

Greek Tragedy In Its Context

The principal focus of this module is on the literature, society and values of Classical Athens. The unit is also concerned with history, philosophy and religion, and draws attention to the nature of classical Greek tragedy.

We study each tragedian in detail as well as the particular styles and approaches characteristic of each and their contribution to the development of Greek tragedy.

We study the early Greek theatre and its machinery; the use of actors and the chorus; dramatic conventions, such as the structure of Greek plays, messenger speeches and the dramatic turn of 'deus ex machina'; the Greek attitude towards the portrayal of violence and death; characterisation, including the role of minor characters; language; and dramatic irony. The module also includes a good deal of discussion on the social and historical setting of Greek tragedy and its development. We study the dramatic festivals in which the tragedies were performed; the role of the gods and fate in the world; oracles, omens and prophecies; moral concepts, such as justice and revenge; death and burial; the role of men and women in the life of Athens and other Greek cities; and the importance of children and the family.

From June 2012 to June 2014, inclusive, the set texts will be: Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, Sophocles' *Ajax* and Euripides' *Medea* and *Trojan Women*.

A2 Units:

Virgil And The World Of The Hero

The principle focus of this module is on Rome in the first century BC, and the epic literature produced by Rome's finest poet and the Greek works which influenced him. We study the composition of both Homer's *Iliad* and Virgil's *Aeneid*; their plot, narrative techniques including the eloquent and moving speeches; the poets' use of descriptive techniques including similes and imagery; characterisation. We also study in detail the classical concepts of heroism, honour and reputation, family, women, the role of the gods, the power of fate, the portrayal of war, moral values and the role of Aeneas in Rome's imperial destiny. The social and cultural environment is important for the study of a work of his magnitude, and so we also cover the topics of Virgil's relationship to emperor Augustus, and the political strife in Rome which led to the creation of the empire and Augustus' ascension.

Art And Architecture In The Greek World

The focus of this module is the slow evolution of archaic free-standing Kouroi and architectural sculpture, pottery and vases, and temples to their famous classical models which become iconic for the Greek classical work. We study the stylistic features and development of vases, sculpture and architecture including the evolution of different types of buildings, physical characteristics, architectural elements and the Doric and Ionic orders. We study Greek sculpture's composition including the portrayal of physical form, drapery, movement and emotion, particularly focusing on the great works by

Polykleitos, Paionios, Kephisodotos, Praxiteles and Lysippos. Greek pottery is studied in detail, including black figure, red figure and white ground vase painting techniques. We further study the sanctuary and buildings of Delphi, Olympia, and the Athenian Acropolis; as well as the temple of Hephaistos in the Athenian Agora; the temple of Aphaia on Aigina; and the temple of Apollo at Bassae.

CLASSICAL GREEK

Building on what you have learned at GCSE, you will become able to translate with increasing confidence, to appreciate literary technique and to develop your own skills of literary criticism through close reading and discussion of prose and verse texts. You will also learn to collect relevant evidence and to present an argument based on that evidence. Thus, the course develops skills needed in a wide range of careers demanding the ability to analyse and assess.

By studying the Ancient Greeks through the medium of their own language, you will come to understand and appreciate the patterns of thought which created some of the world's greatest achievements in literature and art and which formulated many of the philosophical and scientific ideas still valid today. At the same time, you will examine the historical and cultural background in which the texts you are studying are set, thereby discovering a fascinating and influential civilisation, which has had an incalculable effect upon the development of modern Europe.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Greek grade A is the standard entry requirement for Classical Greek.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Since the course in Classical Greek comprises language work, literary appreciation and some work on historical background, it will help you in a number of other subjects, especially English, History and Modern Foreign Languages. It will also help you in your study of the Sciences where attention to detail and the ability to analyse carefully are appreciated. A Sixth Form course in Classical Greek provides a sound academic training and therefore will be an advantage for anyone wishing to apply for a university place in very competitive subjects such as English and Law.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Classical Greek is usually studied at university in combination with Latin under the degree title Classics. You may, however, combine it with another subject such as English, a Modern Foreign language, Art, Archaeology or Classical Civilisation. University Careers Officers report that graduates in Classical Languages find employment in

an enormous variety of fields: some vocational (research, teaching, librarianship, museum work), many in the public sector (civil service, local government, social work) and most in the private sector (managerial, banking, accountancy, IT). Several of our former students have gone on to train for the legal profession.

COURSE CONTENT

The AS units are:

Unit 1: Classical Greek Language

You will become familiar with the language of the 4th and 5th centuries BC and be examined by passages for translation into English.

Unit 2: Classical Greek Verse And Prose Literature

The purpose of the course is to gain a confident fluency in passages of selections from original classical Greek texts, such as Homer's Iliad, Herodotus' Histories, Plato's Apologia, and the speeches of Lysias. Through continued study of grammar, students will gain an understanding of the author's use of rhythm, words and word order, as appropriate to each text studied; as well as the ability to evaluate, analyse and produce personal responses to the Classical Greek literature they study. In addition to the text itself, we also study the cultural content and context of the literature; and acquire an appreciation for literary effects such as simile, metaphor, alliteration, and assonance.

From September 2011 the sections will be from Homer, Iliad 24 and Xenophon, Anabasis.

The A2 units are:

Unit 3: Classical Greek Verse

You will develop an understanding and appreciation of Greek Verse through reading a prescribed text, currently Euripides Hippolytus. From September 2012 the text read will be either Sophocles, Oedipus Tyrannus or Aristophanes Clouds. You will also do wider reading of Greek Verse. You will be assessed on both the prescribed text and unseen translation.

Unit 4: Classical Greek Prose

You will develop an understanding and appreciation of Greek Prose through reading a prescribed text, currently Thucydides Book VII. From September 2012 the text read will be either Plato, Protagoras or Herodotus, Book VIII. You will also read Greek Prose more widely. You will be assessed on both the prescribed text and unseen translation.

LATIN

Building on what you have learned at GCSE, you will become able to translate with increasing confidence, to appreciate literary technique and to develop your own skills of literary criticism through close reading and discussion of prose and verse texts. You will also learn to collect relevant evidence and to present an argument based on that evidence. Thus, the course develops skills needed in a wide range of careers demanding the ability to analyse and assess.

By studying Latin in the Sixth Form you will learn to evaluate Latin poetry and prose in its original form. You will also learn about the historical and cultural background of the works studied and will see just how influential both the Latin language and the culture of the Roman Empire have been for us today.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade A Latin is the standard entry requirement for Latin at AS or at A-level.

LINKS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

Since the course in Latin comprises language work, literary appreciation and some work on historical background, it will help you in a number of other subjects, especially English, History and Modern Foreign Languages. It will also help you in your study of the Sciences where attention to detail and the ability to analyse carefully are appreciated. A Sixth Form course in Latin is widely recognised as providing a sound academic training and therefore will be an advantage for anyone wishing to apply for a university place in very competitive subjects such as English and Law.

HIGHER EDUCATION & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

As a subject, Latin requires a rigorous approach to texts on account of the logical structure of its grammar. However, it combines with this the flexibility required of a human language. As such, the subject is recognised as providing a sound training for university and careers. You may study Latin at university on its own or in combination with Classical Greek under the degree title Classics. You may also combine it with another subject such as English, a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Archaeology or Classical Civilisation. University Careers Officers report

that graduates in Classical Languages find employment in an enormous variety of fields: some vocational (research, teaching, librarianship, museum work), many in the public sector (civil service, local government, social work) and most in the private sector (managerial, law, accountancy, banking, IT).

COURSE CONTENT

The AS units are:

Unit 1: Latin Language

You will become familiar with the language of authors of the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD and be examined by passages for translation into English.

Unit 2: Latin Verse And Prose Literature

Questions test comprehension and appreciation of prescribed texts. From September 2011 the sections studied will be taken from Ovid, Amores III and Cicero, In Verrem II.

The A2 units are:

Unit 3: Latin Verse

The focus of the module is on two select authors. From September 2011 the sections studied will be taken from Ovid's Amores III and Cicero's In Verrem II. Each author is studied in detail, including their literary techniques and the social and cultural milieu in which they wrote in order to gain an appreciation for the Latin text.

Unit 4: Latin Prose

You will develop your understanding and appreciation of Latin Prose through reading a prescribed text, currently either Tacitus Annals XIV or Livy Book XXIII. From September 2012 the set text will be taken from either Tacitus Annals XV or Sallust, Bellum Catilinae. You will also develop your unseen prose translation through wider reading. You will be assessed on both the prescribed text and unseen translation.