

Classical Civilisation

What will I study and learn?

You will study three areas of the classical world:

The World of the Hero, exploring both Greek and Roman epic; **Culture and the Arts**, which involves the study of visual/material culture as well as Greek History, and tragic plays; and **Beliefs and Ideas**, exploring some of the ideas and ideals that are important not only to the ancient world but also to the modern one.

The World of the Hero

You will read selections from the Iliad or the Odyssey by Homer, and Virgil's the Aeneid. Homer's poems are the foundation of the Western literary canon, and the Greeks themselves considered them the cornerstone of Greek culture. In the 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 the exploration of the classical world.

Culture and the Arts

You will ask questions about what it means to be considered 'other' as we examine women, foreigners, and outsiders, in the Invention of the Barbarian. You will use a mixture of visual - Greek and Persian ceramics, and temple architecture from the Acropolis and Persepolis – and written media – Euripides' Medea, Aeschylus's Persians, and Herodotus' portrayal of the Persians in his History (all in translation).

Beliefs and Ideas

You will study Love and Relationships, examining key aspects of the literature, thoughts, and ethics of any society. This component offers the opportunity for learners to recognise and relate to the passions, frustrations and delights of love in the ancient world. The ethical questions raised by these ideas continue to be wrestled over by successive generations and this unit will generate interesting and important discussions about love, desire, sex, sexuality and the institution of marriage. You will read the poetry of Sappho, and Ovid, the letters of Seneca, and the philosophical writings of Plato.

**Want to
know more?**

Mr Daniel Watkins
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Exam Board:
ocr.org.uk

Future opportunities

Many universities offer courses in Classical Civilisation or related subjects such as Ancient History or Archaeology. Classical Civilisation is a strong supporting subject for university applications in English Literature, Classical Languages, Medicine and History. The skills you develop (analysis, critical thinking, and the ability to produce evaluative writing) will be useful in a wide range of courses at university and for employment generally.



Studying ancient civilisations and cultures is extremely engrossing. I find it exciting to expand my knowledge of the ancient world. I have gained greater discursive and essay writing skills from studying this subject. The Classics Department is incredibly friendly and always on hand to help.”

Ethan, OB

Courses: Biology, Classical Civilisation and Geography

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1

World of the Hero

1 written paper – 2 hours and 20 minutes.

Paper 2

Invention of the Barbarian

1 written paper – 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Paper 3

Love and Relationships

1 written paper – 1 hour and 45 minutes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 (formerly a B) in English or a humanities subject is required. There is no Latin or Greek in the Classical Civilisation course; for these languages you should see the separate entry for Classical Languages.