

# Classical Civilisation

## A level

### 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 tragic and comic 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.

In the **World of the Hero** component, 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.

In the **Culture and the Arts** component, 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 pottery, and temple architecture from the Acropolis – and written media – Euripides's *Medea*, Aeschylus's *Persians*, and Herodotus's portrayal of the Persians in *The History* (all in translation).

In the **Beliefs and Ideas** component, you will study a topic such as Greek religion or love and relationships, examining thought-provoking and interesting concepts that will develop your ability to evaluate and analyse ideas as well as sources.

### How will I be assessed?

#### World of the Hero

1 written paper

2 hours and 20 minutes

#### Culture and the Arts

2 written papers

1 hour and 45 minutes each

#### Beliefs and Ideas

2 written papers

1 hour and 45 minutes each

### 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.

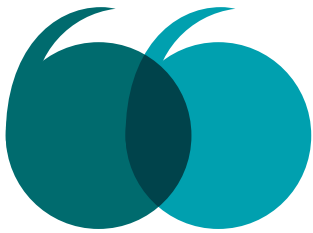
### Entry requirements

A grade 6 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.

### Want to know more?

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Exam Board:  
[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)



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 Grange, OB 2019

Courses: Biology, Classical Civilisation and Geography

