

# Classical Languages: Latin and Greek

## What will I study and learn?

Language study will involve looking at sentences in detail as well as translating extended passages of Latin or Greek. A number of your lessons will focus on literature, discussing the themes and style of the texts within their historical contexts. Independent study will require completion of written tasks, often translations, a little reading and frequent consolidation of the work covered in lessons.

### Latin

Your Latin A level is made up of language and literature. You will read prose and verse works, with the current selection including a speech from the great Roman orator and statesman, Cicero; and one of the greatest examples of western literature, the epic Aeneid by Virgil, telling the story of Aeneas's escape from Troy, in Asia, love and heartbreak in Carthage in Africa, and battle to found a new city in Italy in Europe. You will revise the grammar covered at GCSE and study some new topics.

### Greek

Your Greek A level is made up of language and literature. You will read prose and verse works, with the current selection including the Iliad Book 24, the emotional finale to Homer's epic poem; Euripides's tragic play Hippolytus, and Plato's Republic, covering love, life, death, and everything beyond. You will revise the grammar covered up to GCSE and study some new topics.

## Future opportunities

It is possible to study Classics at many universities without Greek or Latin A level, but you will be at a strong advantage if you have studied one or both languages.

Latin provides strong support for university applications in English, Modern Languages, Law, Archaeology and History. Greek is particularly useful for English, Philosophy, Law and Theology. Classical languages are often studied alongside the sciences and can help in medical training. Latin and Greek are respected as particularly difficult subjects, and the skills you develop will be useful in a wide range of courses at university and for employment generally.

“At A level you delve more into the mechanics of the language, building a deeper understanding of Greek as a concept, not just a language. We have been looking at culture, ancient literature and the language recently. The teachers are immensely supportive to help you succeed.

**Oliver, OB**

Courses: Greek, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, and Physics



## Want to know more?

Mr Daniel Watkins  
Head of Classics  
[dwatkins@bgs.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:dwatkins@bgs.bristol.sch.uk)

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

### How will I be assessed?

#### Paper 1

Testing unseen translations of texts chosen from a range of prose authors and a specified verse unseen author.  
1 hours and 45 minutes.

#### Paper 2

Testing comprehension of the language, or an optional composition paper testing translation into Greek or Latin.  
1 hour and 15 minutes.

#### Paper 3

Prose literature text.  
2 hours.

#### Paper 4

Verse literature text. Testing understanding and context of the literature.  
2 hours.

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A GCSE in the appropriate language(s) is required with a minimum of a grade 7 (formerly grade A) for the A level course.