



Classical Civilisation A-Level (OCR)

What is Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation is, at its core, the study of the ancient civilisations of Athens and Rome. This A level gives you the opportunity to explore both the culture and literature of the Ancient World. You will encounter the epic poems of Homer and Virgil, and follow two very different heroes' journeys home after the Trojan war ended. You will study Greek religion and understand how Ancient Greek piety permeated every aspect of people's lives. You will explore the importance of drama to Ancient Greek culture, and study the writings of playwrights such as Sophocles, delving into the world of *Oedipus the King* and the terrible wrath that was brought down on his family. You do not need to learn the Ancient languages and it doesn't matter if you haven't studied the Greeks and the Romans since primary school. All you do need is a keen interest in the Ancient world and its cultures.

Why study this subject?

By choosing Classical Civilisation, you will acquire specific knowledge of the Classical world and delve into issues such as identity, intolerance, the position of women and religion that are still completely relevant today. You will also learn about the building blocks that so much of Western civilisation is based on. Not only this, but you will also acquire important transferable skills such as analysing sources and developing independent, critical and evaluative approaches. You will learn to formulate and support an argument and develop a valuable understanding of cultures very different to your own.

Where can it lead?

Classical Civilisation is an extremely useful subject if you are looking to apply to university. It naturally lends itself to the study of Classics but can often lead to the study of subjects such as History, History of Art, English, Politics, Philosophy, Law and Drama. Classical Civilisation is on UCL's list of preferred A-level subjects and information from UCAS shows that students who study Classical Civilisation have also gone on to study very diverse subjects such as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry!

Classical Civilisation also provides lots of employment opportunities; employers often look favourably on Classical Civilisation, as Dr Peter Jones points out:

*"... we know that those who have studied the ancient languages are never, in fact, short of job-offers. A top asset-manager recently told me that his firm always employed classicists: they sold more. If Richard Dawkins is right, that is because 'what Classics has always done is just teach people how to think.'" Peter Jones, **Taking The Long View***

Content and Assessment

Students will study three units, and these are assessed solely through examinations at the end of Year 13.

The units are:

- The World of the Hero: Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid* – 40% of A-level, 2 hours 20 mins.
- Culture and the Arts: Greek Theatre – 30% of A-level, 1 hour 45 minutes
- Beliefs and Ideas: Greek Religion – 30% of A-level, 1 hour 45 minutes

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.