

Classical Civilisation

Fact Focus

Subject specific entry requirements.

English Literature – 6 OR History – 6 OR
Classical Civilisation – 6

How the course is assessed.

100% examination during Year 13.

Exam board.

OCR

Where does it lead?

If you are looking to apply to university, Classical Civilisation can be extremely useful. You not only acquire specific Classical knowledge, but also important transferable skills such as analysing sources and developing independent, critical and evaluative approaches. You learn to formulate and support an argument and develop a valuable understanding of cultures very different to your own.

Classical Civilisation is naturally particularly valued by Classics departments in UK universities, but not only by Classics departments. The study of Alevel Classical Civilisation can often lead to the university-level study of Classics, Drama, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Politics.

Classical Civilisation is listed on UCL's list of preferred A Level subjects and it is also listed on Trinity College, Cambridge's list of Generally Suitable Arts Alevel. Information from UCAS shows that students who studied Classical Civilisation went on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry!

It is not only those looking to attend university who benefit from the study of Classical Civilisation. From the proven ability to write a well-structured extended response to the acknowledgement of the views of others and a culturally sensitive approach to these, Classics puts students in an excellent position to seek employment and opportunities.

Course overview

Students will look at the following topics:

This qualification consists of three units –

- **Unit 1** – The World of the Hero (40% - Compulsory unit)
- **Unit 2** – Greek Theatre (30% - Culture and the Arts)
- **Unit 3** – Politics of the Late Republic (30% - Beliefs and Ideas)
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OCR's A Level in Classical Civilisation can either build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, or provide an introduction to the study of the classical world.

The important and ever popular literary genre of epic forms the basis of our mandatory component The World of the Hero. This component will explore both Greek and Roman epic, with the study of either Homer's *Iliad* or Virgil's *Aeneid*. The works of Homer are the foundation of the Western literary canon, and the Greeks themselves considered them the cornerstone of Greek culture. In his *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 exploration of the classical world.

The Culture and the Arts component contains the study of the physical remains of the ancient world is crucial to a comprehensive understanding of it. These components make the classical world more tangible for learners, engaging them more fully in their studies.

Finally, in Beliefs and Ideas learners are given the opportunity to explore some of the ideas and ideals important not only to the ancient world but also to the modern one. From ideas about love

to those about democracy, learners will examine thought provoking and interesting concepts that will develop their ability to evaluate and analyse ideas as well as sources.

You can expect to:

- understand, interpret, evaluate and analyse a range of evidence from classical sources in their social, historical and cultural context
- evaluate and use evidence to produce analytical responses, and effectively substantiated judgements
- debate and discuss about ideas, beliefs and practices in the world of antiquity and how they challenge or contrast with our modern ideas
- develop/build upon passion and genuine interest for Ancient Greek and Roman civilisations