

What is Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation is the study of the societies we have grown out of and how they thought in their literature and their art. It is therefore the study of the substructure to our contemporary lives. It is also the study of adventure, horror, war, madness and the pursuit of perfection and beauty, as seen in the stories and myths used by the Greeks and Romans to analyse and understand our complex world.

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

Classical Civilisation will suit students who are interested in how we visualise the world through art or fantasy and how we are affected by conceptions of men and women, parents, children, the running of society, violence, irrationality, honour and piety. GCSE Classics is not necessary. The course is complementary to any other humanities subject or social science, but will also interest anyone studying maths or sciences, especially at AS level. Classical Civilisation is a good A level for any degree course as it touches on so many areas (history, politics, philosophy, literature, etc).

AS specification number 3816 (OCR)

Unit 1: Greek Epic

(1½ hour exam; 33.3% AS weighting, 16.7% for A level). Students answer a passage-based question and write an essay on Homer's *The Odyssey*.

Unit 2: Either Greek Tragedy 2 or Roman Satire 1

(1½ hour exam; 33.3% AS weighting, 16.7% for A Level). For both options students answer a passage-based question. For Greek Tragedy 2 they write an essay on the plays of Euripides (*Bacchae*, *Hippolytus*, *Medea*) and for Roman Satire 1 they write an essay on Horace's *Satires* and *Dinner with Trimalchio* by Petronius.

Unit 3: Either Greek Comedy 1 or Roman Britain 1

(1½ hour exam; 33.3% AS weighting, 16.7% for A Level). For both options students answer a passage-based question. For Greek Comedy 1 they write an essay on the comedies of Aristophanes (*Peace*, *Acharnians*, *Wasps*) and for Roman Britain 1 they write an essay on *The Agricola and the Germania* by Tacitus, *The Conquest of Gaul* by Caesar and *Roman Britain* (chapters 1-4) by Hill & Ireland.

MPW approach to AS study

Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of similarities and differences between the classical world and the modern world. Weekly homework essays, weekly test essays and intensive revision using past exam papers ensures that work in class is regularly reinforced and students develop the skills they require to achieve high grades in the exams.

Recommended reading for AS

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Penguin
Euripides, *Bacchae*, *Hippolytus*, *Medea*, Penguin
Horace, *Satires*, Penguin
Petronius, *Dinner with Trimalchio*, Penguin
Aristophanes, *Peace*, *Acharnians*, *Wasps*, Penguin
Tacitus, *The Agricola and the Germania*, Penguin
Caesar, *The Conquest of Gaul*, Penguin
Hill & Ireland, *Roman Britain*, Duckworth/Bristol Classical Press

A2 specification number 7816 (OCR)**Unit 4: Greek and Roman Epic**

(1½ hour exam; 16.7% A level weighting). Students answer a passage-based question and write an essay on *The Aeneid* by Virgil and *The Odyssey* by Homer.

Unit 5: Either Greek Tragedy 3 or Roman Satire 3

(1½ hour exam, 16.7% A level weighting). For both options students answer a passage-based question. For Greek Tragedy 3 they write an essay on selected plays of Euripides, Aeschylus and Sophocles, and for Roman Satire 3 they write an essay on selected satires of Horace, Petronius and Juvenal and selected letters of Pliny.

Unit 6: Either Greek Comedy 2 or Roman Britain 2

(1½ hour exam, 16.7% A level weighting). For Greek Comedy 2 students answer a passage based question and write an essay on selected comedies of Aristophanes and Menander. For Roman Britain 2 students answer a photograph-based question and write an essay on *Roman Britain* (chapters 5-8) by Hill & Ireland.

MPW approach to A2 study

The approach at A2 is at a more sophisticated level than at AS. Students are expected to study a wide range of topics and also to demonstrate a higher level of critical awareness than is required at AS. A2 study entails reading widely, giving class presentations and discussing issues, notes and critical surveys. Weekly homework essays, weekly test essays and intensive revision using past exam papers reinforce learning.

Recommended reading for A2

Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Penguin
 Homer, *The Odyssey*, Penguin
 Euripides, *Bacchae*, *Hippolytus*, *Medea*, Penguin
 Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*, Penguin
 Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, *Electra*, Penguin
 Horace, *Satires*, Penguin
 Petronius, *Dinner with Trimalchio*, Penguin
 Juvenal, *Satires*, Penguin
 Pliny, *Letters*, Penguin
 Aristophanes, *Assembly Women*, *Lysistrata*, Penguin
 Menander, *Dyskolos*, Penguin
 Hill & Ireland, *Roman Britain*, Duckworth/Bristol Classical Press