

CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS

Exam Board: OCR

Assessment method

- 100% external exam

Exam length

- There are two papers that are both 90 minutes in length

Breakdown of units

Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is a wide ranging subject involving the study of literature, art, artefacts, archaeological sites, and the ancient historical context.

You don't need to know any languages, all the texts are in translation, and it doesn't matter if you haven't studied the Greeks and Romans since primary school; all you need is an interest in the Ancient World and its cultures. This GCSE is broken down into two components:

Myth and Religion

You will learn the stories and legends from Ancient Greece and Rome, from the creation of the universe to the Trojan War. These myths and legends, like Hercules or Pandora's Box, still form part of our culture today, but to the Ancients they were not just fairy tales – these formed their beliefs about the world, the heavens, and the afterlife. By studying this unit, you will gain a deeper understanding of not only ancient legends and religions, but also of how humans give meaning to their lives on Earth.

War and Warfare

War is one of the most significant aspects of human behaviour throughout history, and war and warfare in the classical world holds an endless and compelling fascination. This component highlights different aspects of warfare in the ancient world, including the purposes, conduct, and effects of war, as well as how the military interacted with, and impacted upon, wider society. We will look at not only written accounts from the Ancient world, but also physical evidence, such as swords, weapons, armour, statues, and the remains of fortresses.

Exam: There is no coursework in Classical Civilisations: instead, there are two exams, each 1 hour and 30 minutes long, worth 90 marks each. You will be tested on your knowledge and understanding of the literary and physical evidence, as well as your ability to construct a reasonable argument using appropriate language.

Lower School Teaching Staff

Alistair Donaldson



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Programme of Study

<p>Autumn Term 1 Myth & Religion – Greece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of the Universe: The History of Myths and Religion • Gods & Goddesses • The Universal Hero: Heracles • Religion, Myths, and the City: Temples & Foundation Stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Temple of Zeus • The Parthenon • Theseus • Festivals • Myth and Symbols of Power • Death, Burial, and Journeying to the Underworld 	<p>Autumn Term 2 Myth & Religion – Rome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gods & Goddesses • The Universal Hero: Hercules • Religion, Myths, and the City: Temples & Foundation Stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ara Pacis • The Pantheon • Aeneas • Festivals • Myth and Symbols of Power • Death, Burial, and Journeying to the Underworld <p>Using Ancient Sources - An introduction to the prescribed Material & literary sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge of using ancient sources • Their social and historical contexts • Analysing themes and meanings • Evaluating their importance as evidence
<p>Spring Term 3 War & Warfare - Athens & Sparta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of their societies • The training, equipment and tactics of the Spartan army and Athenian navy • How were their military forces paid for • Structure, organisation, and command of their forces • The idealisation of war in Spartan society • The impact of the navy on Athenian politics • Key battles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparta – Thermopylae • Athens – Salamis 	<p>Spring Term 4 War & Warfare - Roman Imperial Military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Rome built its empire • Roman society and values • The recruitment, training, and funding of the army and navy • Organisation, command, and tactics of the army and navy • The role of the army in the politics of Rome • Key battles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustus – Actium • Trajan – Dacia
<p>Summer Term 5 War & Warfare – Topic Review & Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homer (Iliad) • Tyrtaeus (The Fallen Warrior) • Horace (Odes) • Virgil (Aeneid) <p>Myth & Religion – Topic Review & Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeric Hymns (Hymn to Demeter; Hymn to Heracles the Lion Hearted) • Plutarch (The Parallels Lives: Comparison of Theseus and Romulus) • Livy (The Early History of Rome) • Ovid (Metamorphoses) • Virgil (Aeneid) 	<p>Summer Term 6 Exam Revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisiting previous exam papers • Self / Peer evaluation • Mock exam preparation <p>Year 10 Only – Learning to read Ancient Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greek Alphabet • How did ancient texts survive in to the modern age? “Hands-on Archaeology!” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inscriptions • Ostraka (pottery sherds) • Papyri • Clay/Wax/Wooden Tablets • Medieval Manuscripts

