

A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Exam Board: OCR

Syllabus Code: H408

Entry Requirement

The Advanced Level course in Classical Civilisation presupposes no previous knowledge of Classical languages or Civilisation. It is therefore open to any Sixth Form student, although a good GCSE grade in English, History, Latin or Ancient History will be an advantage. All literary sources are studied in translation.

Syllabus Content

Component 1: The World of the Hero (40% of A Level)

Homer

With a focus on the religious, cultural and social values in the Heroic Age, pupils will undertake a critical study of Homer as one of the most important works of Western European literature and the foundation of Greek culture. Pupils will be required to analyse themes such as the heroic code; guest- friendship, and the nature of societies as portrayed by Homer.

Virgil

Boys will also read sections of Virgil's epic poem the Aeneid, comparing it with Homer's work. Drawing inspiration from Homer, Virgil explored what it meant to be a hero in the Roman world. Pupils will be required to analyse and appreciate the themes and significance of this influential poem: role of fate and the gods; relationships between mortals and immortals, men and women, fathers and sons.

Component 2: Culture and the Arts (30% of A Level)

Greek Theatre

The drama produced in the ancient Greek theatre forms some of the most powerful literature of the ancient world. Pupils will undertake a critical study of two Greek tragic plays and one comic play within their religious, political and social context. Pupils will need to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the plot, characterisation, conventions of tragedy and comedy, and dramatic techniques.

Component 3: Beliefs and Ideas (30% of A Level)

Democracy and the Athenians

Democracy was an essential part of ancient Greek identity. Studying the practicalities of everyday Athenian democracy and the role it played in shaping society will develop pupils' sense of the central role that politics played in the life of everyday people. Pupils will analyse ancient political reform, how voting worked and whether Athens really was as democratic as it seems.

Assessment

All assessment is examination-based.