

# Classical Civilisation

OCR A-level Classical Civilisation (H408)

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*Note that we have not run this course before and at this stage are just investigating interest and viability.*

## Introduction

An A-level in classical civilisation provides students with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the literature and culture of the classical world. By exploring both ancient Greek and Roman texts, visual/material sources and ancient thought, students acquire an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.

## Subject Requirements

GCSE classical civilisation is helpful, but is not a prerequisite for studying A-level for students with a demonstrable interest in the classical world. Students studying GCSE should achieve a minimum of grade 7 to demonstrate aptitude for the course.

Extended written responses are an important part of the A-level, so strong language skills, demonstrated by grade 7s in GCSE English language and literature, are also advantageous.

## Course Outline

There are three components, each examined separately.

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

This is a compulsory component consisting of an in-depth study of both Greek and Roman epic: Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*. The focus is solely on the literature in translation. 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.

Component 2 (30%): *Culture and the Arts*

We choose the *Imperial Image* option at Epsom. Through examination of the literature and visual/material sources of the period, students examine the ways in which Augustus conveyed his personal brand to all social classes of Rome.

Component 3 (30%): *Beliefs and Ideas*

We choose the *Greek Religion* option at Epsom. Religion was an essential part of ancient Greek identity, permeating all strata of society and all aspects of an individual's daily life. Through a study of a wide variety of visual/material sources and some literary sources, this component examines the nature of the Olympian gods, personal experiences of the divine, places of worship, rituals, religious officials and philosophy.

## Higher Education and Careers

University degrees in classics are hugely valued by employers and the courses on offer are extremely varied, including classical studies, archaeology, ancient history, Latin and Classical Greek. On completion of a classics degree, many choose to enter the legal profession, world of finance or marketing, but the

skills acquired allow a diverse range of careers to be widely accessible. Similarly, classical civilisation is a highly respected A-level that provides useful skills for a wide range of courses beyond Epsom.

**What should I study alongside classical civilisation?**

Classical civilisation complements a wide range of other arts subjects, from English and history to music and drama.