



Classical Civilisation

Why study Classical Civilisation?

The Classical World is both the bedrock of western civilisation and at the same time an utterly alien environment. Studying Classical Civilisation at A Level will give you access to some of the most original, stimulating and highly enjoyable literature ever written, study some Greek and Roman art and architecture, think about the issues raised by Greek and Roman philosophers, enable you to consider the social position, duties and responsibilities of men and women, and look at the relationship between great literature and those in power.

Course Outline

In the first component, students study one of either Homer's *Iliad* or *Odyssey*, as well as Virgil's *Aeneid*. They develop their knowledge of the epics, the way in which they were composed, and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs contained in them. The poems of Homer were considered by the Greeks to be a foundation of Greek culture and this component gives students the opportunity to appreciate the lasting legacy of these works. This component also provides students with the opportunity to appreciate Virgil's *Aeneid*. Drawing inspiration from Homer, as well as from his own cultural and political context, Virgil explored what it was to be a hero in the Roman world.

The second component concerns the idea of a politician 'spinning' their public image - one which is very familiar in our contemporary media - and so this exploration of a Roman politician and his successful propaganda campaign is highly relevant and engaging for students. By examining the literature, visual material and culture of the period, students will assess the effectiveness of Augustus Caesar's self-presentation, as well as the effectiveness of his public image as a whole. The final topic is concerned with representations of Augustus in later art and literature, enabling students to evaluate how successful his self-presentation was in the long-term.

The third component concerns Greek Religion, an essential part of ancient Greek identity. Religion was connected to the household, to life in the city and countryside and it was closely intertwined with politics. Through the study of religious rituals and the functions and layout of famous temple complexes, students will develop their sense of the central role that religion played in the life of everyday people. Students will also explore the nature of the gods and their relationship with mortals. Also included are the very different roles played by Mystery Cults and the tensions caused by the rise of philosophical thinking.

Head of Learning

Mr D Westworth

Exam Board

OCR A Level Classical Civilisation

Where are they now?

Recent students of Classical Civilisation at CRGS have gone on to study:

- Ancient History (Newcastle)
- Ancient World (UCL)
- Business Management (Huddersfield)
- Chinese Studies (Sheffield)
- English and Classics (Newcastle, Nottingham)
- English Literature / Creative Writing (Durham, Lancaster, Manchester Metropolitan, Northumbria)
- History (Lancaster)
- History and Politics (York)



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Assessment

- The World of the Hero: Iliad/Odyssey and Aeneid (100 Marks, 40% of A Level, 2hrs 20 mins)
- The Image of Augustus (75 Marks, 30% of A Level, 1hr 45 mins)
- Greek Religion (75 Marks, 30% of A Level, 1hr 45 mins)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is any previous knowledge required to study this subject?

It is not necessary to have studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE and students are not required to have any knowledge of Latin or Classical Greek. All material is taught in English translation. Students who do best in this subject are those who have an interest in the world of Greece and Rome and who wish to engage with two cultures which have proven so highly influential on the culture, values and philosophy of western civilisation.

Students are required to meet the General Entry Requirement of a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 6 with at least GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Maths.

Q. What opportunities are there for Extended Learning?

When possible, students take part in trips to see exhibitions or watch live performances of plays, as and when these become available in the area.

Q. What facilities are there?

The department and Sixth Form Library have a considerable amount of material on the Classical World which is available for students to borrow if they wish to extend their knowledge of core material. There is also a great deal of material available on YouTube which is recommended for students who wish to explore topics in further depth.

Exam Board Specification

OCR A Level Classical Civilisation (H408) www.ocr.org.uk

Notes: