



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

While the ancient world may at first seem remote from the problems of the present, the study of Classical Civilisation can help students make sense of the world today. The nature and impact of various cultural and religious developments, the responses of societies to complex social and economic challenges, the issues of justice, discrimination and violence were as much a part of the ancient world as they are of ours today.

Classical Civilisation is an interdisciplinary course of study, covering Literature, History, Language, Art, and more. Classical Civilisation covers mainly Greco-Roman history but may also include Egypt and Mesopotamia. Classical Civilisation touches on Religion, Art, Philosophy, Drama, Poetry, Science, Astronomy, Mythology, Geography, Mathematics, Archaeology, Politics, Law, and Gender Studies. Almost everything we know has an antecedent or counterpart in the Classics.

Can anyone study Classical Civilisation?

The course is open to anyone, provided they have attained at least a 6 at GCSE (or equivalent) in any of Classical Civilisation, English Literature or History. No knowledge of Latin or Greek is needed as all sources are read in English.

What other subjects does it combine well with?

Classical Civilisation combines well with any other subject. Students studying English Literature will find a Classical background invaluable, particularly a knowledge of Homer and Greek Tragedy. Historians gain knowledge of another period. Dramatists enjoy the literature and the Ancient Tragedies and Comedies.

Artists and art historians benefit from studying Classical Art. Medics, scientists, mathematicians and linguists might just fancy something different. If nothing else, it is great for your general knowledge.

How is it different from Ancient History?

Classical Civilisation involves the study of literature for literature's sake rather than as a historical source; the same applies to art, architecture and archaeological evidence. There is some overlap between Classical Civilisation and Ancient History but Classical Civilisation is much broader and involves skills from English Literature and other subjects as well as History.

The course

There are three papers to be examined at the end of Year 13. Half of Paper 1 (*The Odyssey*) and Paper 2 will be studied in Year 12.

Paper 1: The World of the Hero (40%)

Students will study Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, two of the most important works of Western literature. This module looks at aspects of epic poetry such as heroism, the depiction of the gods and religion as well as the role of women and the historical context.

Paper 2: Culture and the Arts (30%)

Students will study 'Imperial Image' which looks at how the first Roman emperor Augustus manipulated media and used propaganda as part of his campaign to establish autocracy. Students will study literary sources as well as visual sources such as statues and architecture. Themes covered include: Augustus as military, moral and religious leader, his connection with Julius Caesar and his wider reception today.

Paper 3: Beliefs and Ideas (30%)

Students will study 'Democracy and the Athenians'. This paper involves study through literary and visual material of the birth of democracy in 5th BC Athens and its interlinkages with today's systems of government. Themes covered include: democracy and Athenian identity, the pros and cons of direct representation (including referenda), the threat from populist leaders and the satirical relationship between democracy and Comedy.

Classical Civilisation A-level and beyond

Most universities offer a Classical course with or without Latin/Greek. There are various different courses focusing on different aspects of Classics such as Ancient History, Classical Civilisation, Classical Studies and Classical Archaeology. Many universities offer combined courses in Ancient and Modern History or English and Classics. It is now possible to study Classics at many universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, without having done Latin and Greek at school. Those who study Classical Civilisation can also proceed to quite different courses such as English, History and Law. Classicists are also highly valued in the workplace where they are seen to be bright, motivated and possessing excellent analytical skills.