

GCSE Classical Civilisation

Board and Syllabus: OCR Classical Civilisation

Nature of the Course

This course enables students to explore a variety of exciting topics from the ancient world, drawn from both Greek and Latin civilisation. You will learn how to discuss “primary source material”, such as wall paintings, graffiti, coins, inscriptions and of course the actual historians who provide the bulk of our evidence. We will study the society, politics and culture of the classical world. This might be based on a study of mythology, religion and superstition, or it might focus on a dramatic slice of history, such as the horrific war between Athens and Sparta in the Fifth Century bc. Pupils analyse causes, motives and attitudes, and learn to draw comparisons between classical and later times.

Literature is read in translation, and in line with English or History syllabuses, candidates will learn to interpret and evaluate their reading, and to fit it into a literary and historical context.

Course Content

	% GCSE
Paper 1 Greek and Roman Civilisation (Topics 1-12)	20% per topic
Paper 2 Greek and Roman Literature in translation (Topics 13-22)	20% per topic

Candidates offer a total of **five** topics, **one** of which may be offered as coursework. Coursework is optional.

General

This scheme allows considerable flexibility. For instance, it is possible to lean heavily towards literature by choosing three literature topic and two civilisation topics.

Examples of civilisation topics include: Sparta, Pompeii, Roman Britain, Roman Sport and Leisure, Augustus, Roman or Greek Religion.

Examples of literature topics include: Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes (comedy), Virgil, Ovid, Tacitus.

Classical Civilisation will appeal to pupils who enjoy English or History, and those who are attracted to the ancient world, whether that interest stems from mythology, history or literature. The course is open to all and offers a fascinating range of opportunities. We like to take students to see plays and attend lectures.

Question: What is the Greek for “the future”?

Answer: “ta opistho” – “the things behind you”.