

Classical Civilisation

at MSJ Sixth Form



Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is a wide ranging subject involving the study of literature, source material such as sculpture and vases, ancient thought and ideas, and the ancient historical context.

You don't need to know any languages, all the texts are in translation. You'll be exploring two ancient societies that developed a way of life and a way of thinking about life that has influenced the western world more than any other society. It is a hugely stimulating and enjoyable subject which explores the big questions: how should we live life? What makes a good society? Can war ever be justified? What role should women have in society?

TO PURSUE THE A LEVEL COURSE SUCCESSFULLY, PUPILS IDEALLY NEED A MINIMUM OF:

Interest in the ancient world
GCSE English 6

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will read Greek and Roman literature in translation, which leads to discussion and debate. You will follow Odysseus' epic journey home after the Trojan War and learn about the dysfunctional families of Greek Tragedy. You will enjoy the drama of Greek plays and watch Oedipus make a terrible discovery that he has killed his father and married his mother. You will realise that, despite some differences, ancient and modern comedy have much in common. This course will enable you to present your own personal response to literature by selecting and organising information from the texts to produce a clear, logical argument.

IS IT THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?

What skills will I need?

It is not necessary to have studied GCSE Classical Civilisation to take this subject. We assume no previous knowledge of the Classical world, but it would be beneficial to have an interest in some aspect of Greek or Roman culture, e.g. Greek Mythology. You need to enjoy reading and be prepared to defend your opinions. Analytical and critical skills are developed during the course. You will improve your writing skills and be supported in learning how to create a logical and persuasive argument.

Enthusiasm for the subject is the most important requirement. Even though written texts are the main focus of study, you will also engage with the ancient world through images, objects and films. You will have the opportunity to watch plays and attend lectures. In recent years we have seen memorable productions at the National Theatre and the Globe.

WITH WHICH OTHER SUBJECTS DOES IT WORK BEST?

Students who study Classical Civilisation also often study English, Drama and History. Some girls have taken it to provide a contrast to Sciences and Mathematics and to develop writing skills if they do not have an essay subject.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS?

Statistics show that Classics graduates are highly employable and go on to a range of diverse and stimulating careers from Law, Banking and the Civil Service to Journalism and Marketing. Employers value transferable analytical skills and facility with language and argument.

HEAD OF SUBJECT

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TWITTER

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EXAM BOARD

OCR

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

AS / Year 12 Two papers of 1 hour 30 minutes each	World of the Hero Homer's Odyssey (1 hour 30 minutes) Greek Theatre Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Euripides' Bacchae, Aristophanes' Frogs (1 hour 30 minutes)
A2 / Year 13 Three papers	World of the Hero Homer's Odyssey, Virgil's Aeneid (2 hours 20 minutes) Greek Theatre Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Euripides' Bacchae, Aristophanes' Frogs (1 hour 45 minutes) Greek Religion (1 hour 45 minutes)