

Classical Civilisation

Course overview

A LEVEL

Level 3

OCR

This is the perfect course for any student with an interest in the worlds of Ancient Greece and Rome. The course offers an in-depth exploration into the beginnings of Western culture, with a chance to look at the oldest surviving works of literature in the Western literary canon; the origins of democracy; the birth of theatre; art and artistry.

Entry Requirements

You must have a minimum of 5 grades 9-4 (equivalent to A*-C) at GCSE including English and Maths at grade 4 plus you must also meet the specific subject entry requirements.

Subject Specific Requirements

Grade 4 in English Language GCSE

Popular Subject Combinations

A Level: History, English Literature, Drama, Philosophy, Government & Politics, Law.

BTEC: Performing Arts

Possible Enrichment Opportunities

Trips to Museums/Cultural Sites

External Speakers

Writing Contributions

What will I learn?

In Classical Civilisation you will explore the worlds of the epic poetry of Homer and Virgil, their relevance to the cultures surrounding them and the lasting impact of these works. Alongside these texts, you will look at the politics, architecture, art and literature of both the Classical Athenians and the Romans of the Late Republic and Early Empire. Classics is a course that, despite dealing with such ancient subjects, remains completely fresh, engaging and relevant to contemporary issues and allows you to explore a fascinating period through an impressively wide range of materials and sources.

How will I be assessed?

Three externally set exams, one covering each unit.

The World of The Hero

Two hours and 20 minutes, worth 40% of the marks
Culture and The Arts

One hour and 45 minutes, worth 30% of the marks
Beliefs and Ideas

One hour and 45 minutes, worth 30% of the marks

Where might it lead?

Classical Civilisation offers a logical route into a wide range of University courses and careers. These could be Museum and Conservation work, Teaching, Law, Business, Politics, Archaeology, History, Anthropology, Literature and more.

Student name: Lizzie Tolland (ex pupil of Matthew Arnold)

"I enjoy taking Classics because you get to learn about ancient civilisations and how they have impacted our society today. I think it is important to learn from history."

If you would like further information about this course please contact the admissions team at

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