



St Mary Redcliffe
and Temple School

Classical Civilisation



Classical Civilisation

Exam board: OCR

Specification no.: H008 (AS) / H408 (A Level)

This is a two year linear A level course - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

AS Level

Paper 1	The world of the hero: Homer's Odyssey	1 hour 30 mins exam
Paper 2	Culture and the arts: Imperial image	1 hour 30 mins exam

A Level

Paper 1	The world of the hero: Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid	2 hour 20 mins exam (40%)
Paper 2	Culture and the arts: Imperial image	1 hour 45 mins exam (30%)
Paper 3	Beliefs and Ideas: Love and Relationships	1 hour 45 mins exam (30%)

Course Delivery: Students studying Classical Civilisation will be able to learn about life in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. All texts from Ancient Greece and Rome are in modern translations; students need no Greek or Latin. Classical Civilisation offers students the chance to develop skills which they would use in the study of literature, history and art and develop knowledge and understanding of all of these subjects.

The course is delivered using a variety of active learning strategies; group work, analysis of film, research using the ICT facilities, presentations. Students will have to be prepared to read the key texts which will include The Odyssey, The Aeneid and the Letters of Cicero.

Course Content:

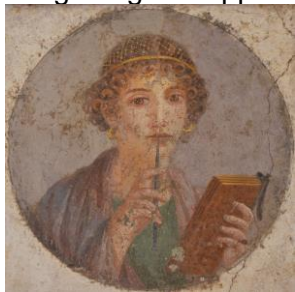
The world of the hero:

Homers' Odyssey - Odysseus' journey on his long return from the Trojan War: has a strong relevance for modern readers, for its ethical points, narrative structure, mythical elements and insights into an ancient civilisation.



Virgil's Aeneid - Written in the time of Augustus, is on the same scale as the Odyssey. It begins with Aeneas' escape from the fall of Troy; after many adventures he lands in Italy and fights to establish the nation which will become Rome. Students study literature, society and values, philosophy, science and religion.

Culture and the Arts: Imperial Image - An exploration of the life of the Roman politician, Augustus Caesar. Through careful management of his public image he was able to convince the anti-monarchical Romans to turn away from their republican values and accept one man rule. Students will be able to study the methods by which he achieved this change; manipulating the presentation of his image to gain support from the Roman people and political classes.



Beliefs and Ideas: Love and Relationships: Explore ancient attitudes towards love, gender and sexuality. In this module we will be looking at the works of poets such as Sappho and Ovid and philosophers such as Seneca. This new module, started in 2021, will reflect many relevant contemporary discussions around what makes a man or a woman and society's expectations of them.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to have studied this subject before?

Not at all. Some students make come to the course having completed a GCSE in Classical Civilisation but most will not. You will be taught everything that you need to know to be successful in this course.

Is there any coursework?

No. The subject is assessed by examination only, at the end of the course. Students will be given plenty of opportunity to practise exam style questions so that they are fully prepared for the final examination.

Is there a lot of reading?

Yes. There are set texts for each section of the course, for example Homer's Odyssey. We also look at a variety of modern scholarship to assess different interpretations of the classical world.

What subjects should I study as well as Classical civilisation?

Any. Classical Civilisation complements a variety of arts subjects such as English Literature, Art and History. However, students of the social sciences and sciences have also found it very interesting and been very successful in this course.

Do I need to have studied Latin and Greek?

No. All the texts that we study are in the English translation so no other language required. If students are interested in classical languages, we would encourage them to take any opportunity to develop their knowledge and can provide some resources for this but it is not required for this course.

Will we go on any field trips?

We will absolutely try to! Due to Covid-19, the scope for Classical Civilisation field trips is very uncertain however in previous years we have attended trips to the British Museum in London and have even managed to visit Rome and Pompeii!

What is the next step after A Level Classical Civilisation?

Anything! Some students have gone on to university to study Classics or other degree subjects, some have gone into work. They are all able to demonstrate curiosity in the world about them and the ability to be able to analyse and communicate ideas.

What do the Students Say?

‘It’s really helped me develop my ability to analyse text’

‘Classics is the perfect complement to my other subjects, English History and Politics. I have found it beyond helpful in understanding the origins of political thought and seeing reflections of the modern world within classical texts and situations’

‘It’s been engaging, insightful and fun, and must be my favourite subject!’



‘I chose Classical Civilisation along with Maths, Further Maths and Physics A Levels in order to keep some variety in my academic life’

‘I am so much more confident when explaining my ideas in written form than I was before’

‘Classics connects with so many different subject areas, and covers such a range of topics, that it can be engaging in a way the ‘standard’ subjects often are not’

‘I am really interested in studying the role of women in Roman society and politics’

‘We can learn so much from studying the classical world’

Resources:

Students are issued with texts, but are encouraged to buy and annotate them. The Library has a growing collection of texts for research, and the department has a number of useful videos.

Entry requirements:

If the subject is taken at GCSE it should be passed at 5 or above and at least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a 6.

Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:

Students benefit from an interest in poetry, history, archaeology or art, they also need to enjoy discussion of society, ideas and character, and should bring their wider interests to bear on the texts we study. Students interested in pursuing a degree in any of the classical subjects will be given our full support and encouragement. Interested students can also study Latin and Ancient Greek language.

Visits: We will be going to London to the British Museum. We will also attend any local Classics events such as lectures or theatre trips. It is possible that there will be a trip to one foreign classical site.

Recommended reading / websites:

Griffin, J. *Homer, The Odyssey: A Student*

Guide CUP (2003) 978-0521539784

Shotter, D. *Augustus Caesar* Routledge (2005) 978-0415319362

Wallace-Hadrill, A. *Augustan Rome* BCP/Duckworth(1998)

978-1853991387

Ross David O *Virgil's Aeneid A Readers Guide*.

www.ancientgreece.com www.classicspage.com

For further information: Contact Mr J Oakes (Head of Classical Civilisation)

Telephone: 0117 353 2073

Email: 6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk

