

Classical Civilisation

Exam board : OCR

Specification no : H408

Link to the Specification:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/classical-civilisation-h008-h408-from-2017/>



Content:

Topic	Assessment	A Level %
World of the Hero: The Odyssey and Aeneid	100 marks 2 hours 30 minutes Written paper	40
Culture and Arts: Imperial Image	75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes Written paper	30
Beliefs and Ideas: Love and Relationships	75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes Written paper	30

Course Delivery:

The first year of the course will be split between Homer's *Odyssey* and *Imperial Image*. The second year focuses on Virgil's *Aeneid* and *Love and Relationships*. Lesson activities and topics will vary greatly. Students will also have an opportunity to carry out a research project into areas of their own interest.

Course Content:

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.

Course Content cont.

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.

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.

Resources:

Students will work from notebooks and will be provided with course textbooks. Students should purchase copies of the Odyssey and the Aeneid and will be guided as to which translations will be needed. Students will also receive opportunities to hear from specialists in fields such as archaeology.

Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:

Students who wish to study Classical Civilisation should have an interest in the ancient world and literature. Students should be able to work both independently and as part of a group. We are keen for enthusiastic students who are willing to share their opinions and answer questions in lessons. Having a history of being able to write good essays is also very useful. Most importantly, we are looking for honest students who seek guidance and feedback when struggling.

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*.

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