

QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL  
CLASSICAL  
CIVILISATION  
A-LEVEL GUIDE



# THINKING OF STUDYING CLASSICAL CIVILISATION IN A-LEVEL?

## A level Classical Civilisation

- Why is Achilles famed to be the greatest of Greek heroes?
- How important are the female characters in Virgil's Aeneid?
- How did the Ancient Greeks view people from outside Greece?
- How similar are modern and ancient relationships?

These questions are just some of the fascinating and thought-provoking topics we explore at A-level.

## WHY SHOULD YOU STUDY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

If you love mythology and the history of the ancient world, this would be the ideal subject for you. You will also read some of the most famous texts ever written and come face-to-face with some of the greatest politicians, writers, and thinkers of Greece and Rome. The course combines literature with history, and so would be a good choice for anyone interested in both of these areas.



# COURSE CURRICULUM

We follow the OCR specification, which is comprised of three papers:

| Paper                                                                                                                  | Duration           | Weighting |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| <b>The World of the Hero</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homer's Iliad</li><li>• Virgil's Aeneid</li></ul> | 2 hours 30 minutes | 40%       |
| <b>Culture and the arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invention of the Barbarian</li></ul>               | 1 hour 45 minutes  | 30%       |
| <b>Beliefs and Ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Love and Relationships</li></ul>                      | 1 hour 45 minutes  | 30%       |

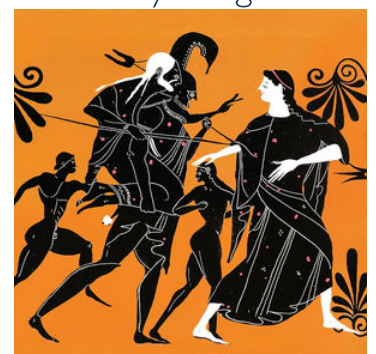
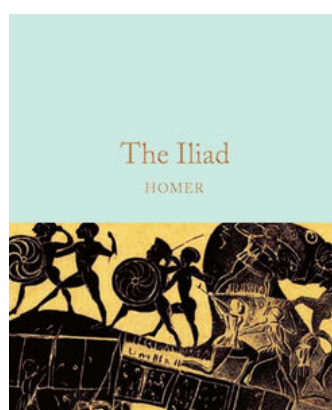
## HOW ARE YOU EXAMINED?

There are three types of essay question for Classical Civilisation:

- 10-mark: a response to a specific written or visual source or idea that you have studied before, discussing how far it demonstrates a particular aspect.
- 20-mark: a medium-length essay about a particular aspect of the course.
- 30-mark: a longer essay about an overarching theme, utilising the opinions of modern scholars.

A typical essay might be:

- How does Virgil make this a vivid and exciting passage? (10 marks)
- Who gives a more realistic depiction of love, Sappho or Plato? (20 marks)
- "To be fully Greek, you had to live on mainland Greece.' How far do you agree with this statement? (30 marks)



# WHAT SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP?

GCSE Classical Civilisation is helpful but not required. GCSEs in essay-based subjects such as History and English Literature would be very useful. The ideal Classical Civilisation student has a passion for the ancient world and is comfortable reading extended literature, analysing visual sources, developing arguments, and responding to varied ideas and interpretations of topics.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Classical Civilisation is a broad subject, and so the skills learned will also be varied:

- How to structure a persuasive essay.
- How to argue your point effectively and concisely.
- How to engage with the opinions of others.
- How to read and view ancient sources.
- How to avoid taking sources at face value.
- How to understand the factors behind historic events.
- How to form balanced, non-judgmental viewpoints.

## CAREER PROSPECTS

The course is suitable for all students interested in studying Classics at university, but it also complements a number of subjects, namely Humanities. Career choices vary enormously from teaching to law, from banking to media, from consulting to HR. You learn the skills of analysis, critical thinking, compassion and argument, which can be applied to a vast range of career paths.

**Contact: Miss Lamkin (Head of Classics)**

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