



Head of subject: **Mr Sherman**

Minimum entry requirements:
**Grade 6 in GCSE Geography,
GCSE History or
GCSE Religious Studies**

Classical Civilisation

What will you study in Year 12?

In Year 12 you will focus on the study of ancient Greece.

You will begin a unit on the hero in Greek and Roman Literature. This will be based on a comparison between *The Odyssey* by Homer and *The Aeneid* by Virgil, two of the most famous and influential texts from the classical world. Both are epics based around heroes wandering in search of home, struggling against gods and monsters as well as other more familiar problems. In Year 12 you will focus on *The Odyssey*, which is the ancient Greek part of the unit.

You will also study a unit on the evolution of the Greek concept of the barbarian, which was a key component of ancient Greek culture and an important influence on the development of racism in the modern world. There will be a particular focus on the Greek view of the Persian empire, an extremely powerful and advanced civilisation, an investigation of the traumatic and violent wars the Greeks and the Persians fought against one another and a comparison between Greek ideas about the Persians and what they were actually like.

What will you study in Year 13?

In Year 13 you will focus on the study of ancient Rome.

You will complete your unit on the hero in Greek and Roman Literature, examining Virgil's Roman epic, *The Aeneid*, and drawing comparisons with the Greek literature you studied in Year 12.

You will also complete a unit on the collapse of the semi-democratic Roman Republic and its replacement by the dictatorship of Julius Caesar, which eventually led to the domination of Rome by the Emperors. There will be a particular focus on Cicero, sometimes described as a Roman liberal, Cato the Younger and Julius Caesar, including his relationship with Cleopatra. This is a period of civil war and all four of these men and women died violent deaths.

How will you be assessed during the course?

Assessment during the course will focus on developing the skills needed for your final examinations. You will be writing answers to exam style questions, including both essay questions and shorter questions, that develop your explanatory and analytical skills, clarity of expression and comprehension of classical texts, all of which are requirements of a good Classics A Level answer.

External assessment is based on three external examinations. There is no coursework of any kind.

Unit 1: The World of the Hero, the paper comparing Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, is 2 hours and 30 minutes and consists of three 10 mark stimulus questions, two 20 mark mini-essay questions and a 30 mark essay question. You will have a choice of 30 mark essay questions. It is worth 40% of your final mark.

Unit 2: The Invention of the Barbarian is 1 hour and 45 minutes and consists of four short answer questions, two 10 mark stimulus questions, a 20 mark mini-essay question and a 30 mark essay question. You will have choice of 30 mark essay questions. It is worth 30% of your final mark.

Unit 3: Politics of the Late Republic is 1 hour and 45 minutes and consists of four short answer questions, a 10 mark stimulus question, a 10 mark ideas question, a 20 mark mini-essay question and a 30 mark essay question. You will have choice of 30 mark essay questions. It is worth 30% of your final mark.

Where will this course lead?

Classical Civilisation is a rigorously academic subject, which is highly valued by good universities and a range of employers. Many of the skills developed through the study of Classical Civilisation are particularly useful for those interested in law, journalism and politics.

Further information

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

The school currently offers students the opportunity to study for qualifications in Latin. This is separate to Classical Civilisation A Level, but would be particularly interesting for students of this subject.

Students considering a degree in Classics should consider combining Classical Civilisation with A Levels in History, English Literature or Government and Politics, since these subjects involve related sets of skills and factual content. Indeed the extra practice in writing and analytical skills might enable you to achieve higher grades across all your A Levels. Students considering Classics as a degree might also benefit from an A Level in a language, although this is not essential.