Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of Department:
Mr J R Sherman

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in any humanities GCSE

Classics

What will you study in Year 12?

In Year 12 you will study two units, both focusing on the ancient Greeks:

Unit 1: The World of the Hero

The most important form of literature to the Ancient Greeks and the Romans was epic poetry. In Year 12 you will study the Odyssey, which is one of the two most important Greek epics. It involves gods, monsters and heroes, and at the same time is a psychologically sophisticated exploration of human character. You will study it in a prose translation in which it reads as something closer to a fantasy novel than poetry.

Unit 2: The Invention of the Barbarian

The Ancient Greeks regarded all the peoples who lived around them as being barbarians. This unit is based around the history of the wars between the Greeks and the Persians in which the Greeks developed their hostility to the barbarian world, and some of the plays and works of art in which they expressed that hostility.

What will you study in Year 13?

In Year 13 you will study two units, both focusing on the Romans:

Unit 1: The World of the Hero

You will finish this unit by studying the Aeneid, which is the most important Roman epic. It involves a similar combination of fantasy and realism as the Odyssey. Like the Odyssey, you will also study it in prose translation.

Unit 3: The Politics of the Late Republic

The Romans originally had an elected government, albeit not exactly a democratic one. This unit is an exploration of the history of the period in which that elected government was overthrown and replaced by the dictatorship of the emperors.

How will you be assessed during the course?

In school

In A Level Classics at SHSG, homework is for reading the set texts, note-taking and revision. Classwork is for consolidating and developing your understanding of the material you've read, debates, discussions and exam practice. You will frequently have the opportunity to write exam style answers to develop your skills. All of these will be written in class.

External assessments

Paper 1 (40%): The World of the Hero
(2 hours & 30 minutes)

Paper 2 (30%): The Invention of the Barbarian
(1 hour & 45 minutes)

Paper 3 (30%): The Politics of the Late Republic
(1 hour & 45 minutes)

Each paper has a variety of question types, ranging in difficulty from a few short answer questions, through stimulus questions (extended answers in response to a section of text given in the exam paper) to essay questions.

There is no coursework in A Level Classics.

Where will this course lead?

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

Further information

Super curricular activities

We run a Latin club on Thursday lunchtimes which gives students the opportunity to learn Latin from scratch or to improve their Latin if they have already started learning it. Students who attend regularly can be entered for the Eduqas Level 1 Latin qualification.

Trips

We offer a trip to the British Museum in London at the end of Year 12 to see some of the artefacts covered in the course.

Specification

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