

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

A Level OCR Classical Civilisation

Code: H408

Taught hours per week: 6 hours

Course Leader: William Chrystal

wchrystal@bohunt.hants.sch.uk

Course Content

The World of the Hero: Homer's *Odyssey* or *Iliad* and Virgil's *Aeneid*

The foundation of Greek culture, Homer's epics allow you to delve into the world of the famous Greek gods and of the Trojan War. Drawing inspiration from Homer, Virgil's *Aeneid* traces Aeneas's journey after his escape from the Greeks at Troy and explores what it was to be a hero in the Roman world.

Culture and the Arts: Imperial Image

The idea of a politician 'spinning' their public image is one, which is very familiar from our contemporary media; and so this exploration of a Roman politician and his successful propaganda campaign is both highly relevant and engaging. Augustus Caesar was, through careful management of public opinion, able to convince a society that was fundamentally anti-monarchical to turn away from its republican values and to accept one-man rule.

Beliefs and Ideas: Democracy and the Athenians

What was the world's first democracy actually like? Here you will examine the concept of direct democracy, how it was established, how it worked, was celebrated and was criticised. Was it fatally flawed, and were popular leaders (demagogues) really able to mislead the public?

Learning Outcomes

A-level Classicists will be taught to work independently and think critically. Using a wide range of evidence, including ancient historical texts, works of philosophy, plays, archaeological artefacts and archaeological sites, you will learn how to respond critically to historical questions in the form of essays, debates, or seminar-style discussions. Small class sizes will allow informal and focused discussion of the ancient world.

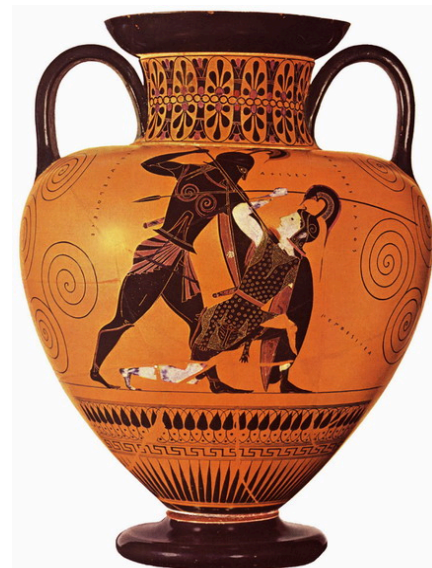
You will also learn to write in a structured and analytical style, and to incorporate detailed evidence into your answers. Regular essays will be set to develop these skills. Engaging with a wide variety of sources, literary and archaeological, will equip you with the wide-ranging skills necessary to investigate the ancient world on its own terms.

Progression and Careers

The study of A Level Classical Civilisation can often lead to the university-level study of Classics, Drama, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Politics. The ability to analyse evidence, make persuasive arguments, and the emphasis on understanding societies radically different from our own mean that Classicists are creative thinkers and powerful debaters. As such Classics graduates are well-placed to pursue careers in fields as diverse as politics, law, journalism, management, the civil service, heritage, the arts, education, business and management. Famous Classics graduates include J.K. Rowling, Boris Johnson, Tom Hiddleston and Chris Martin.

Essential Equipment

Students will need to provide their own textbooks, folders, paper, stationery, and memory stick if applicable. Approximately £45 will be needed to buy three textbooks, one for each part of the course. Any Classics trips will be charged for as required.



Entry requirements

Grade 6 in History or English GCSE.

