

Introduction to GCSE Classical Greek

Why study Classical Greek?

This subject gives you the opportunity to study the language and literature of classical Greece, reading the works of authors such as Homer and Euripides. You will experience at first hand elements of the culture, language and social and political life of the Greek civilisation which has inspired many later generations. As well as being exciting and inspiring, this course will help you develop analytical skills and intellectual flexibility which will be useful in a wide range of jobs or in further study.

You will study:

- The language of classical Greece; you learn to read Greek texts in their original language;
- Literature set texts, by authors such as Homer, Euripides, Xenophon, Herodotus and Plato;
- Civilisation topics, including Religion, Home and Family Life, Art and Architecture, Athletic and Theatrical Festivals, and Sparta.

You will learn:

- How to develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally, including an awareness of the relationship between classical Greek and the languages of today;
- How to appreciate different cultures;
- How to read texts in classical Greek;
- How to read and appreciate Greek literature in its cultural context and in its original language;
- How to communicate clearly and effectively.

Assessment:

There is one level of entry for all examination papers covering the full range of grades G to A*. You will take Papers 1 and 2 and **one** of Papers 3, 4 or coursework.

Paper 1 (Classical Greek Language: 2 hours)

There are four sections. You must answer the first two (translation into English and comprehension) and can choose one of the remaining two (further translation into English or translation into Greek).

Paper 2 (Verse literature: 1 hour 30 minutes)

You have a choice between two verse texts. This paper consists of two passages of Greek with comprehension, evaluation and translation questions.

Paper 3 (Prose literature: 1 hour)

You have a choice between two verse texts. This paper consists of two passages of Greek with comprehension, evaluation and translation questions.

Paper 4 (Greek Civilisation: 45 minutes)

You choose one of five Greek Civilisation topics (Greek Religion, Home and Family Life, Art & Architecture, Athletic and Theatrical Festivals and Sparta). This paper requires short answers to questions based on stimulus passages or illustrations and a choice of essays.

Coursework

You produce either one piece of maximum 2000 words or two pieces of maximum 1000 words each. Your writing must be based on one of the five Greek Civilisation topics from paper 4. Private candidates may not enter for the coursework option.