

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Studying Classical Civilisation

The course offers pupils the opportunity to study the history, mythology and literature of ancient Greece and Rome. Pupils will develop their ability to use primary sources to gain an understanding of the lives and priorities of the Greeks and Romans.

The syllabus offers considerable variety and interest. The topics chosen will give pupils a well-rounded perspective of the civilisations of Greece and Rome. Each pupil is encouraged to express their individual response to the sources studied and indeed it is difficult not to when considering the engaging stories of Heracles, Romulus and Odysseus.

The Course Content

The Odyssey

We read Homer's wonderful poem about the journey home of the hero Odysseus. We focus on the story of the blinding of the Cyclops and then consider how he regained his palace in a bloody battle in his hall.

Reading one of the first and greatest epic poems helps pupils to set all succeeding literature in context. The *Odyssey* really invented the role of the suffering hero and introduced the theme of the quest to literature.

Myth and Religion in Athens and Rome

Myth and religion were closely intertwined in the ancient world. Greek and Roman mythology has an enduring appeal and offers a fascinating insight into these most creative and dramatic ancient societies.

This topic includes:

Foundation myths – We look at the foundation of Rome by Romulus and the importance of Theseus in the foundation of Athens. These myths were very important to the ancient Greeks and Romans and we will think about what impact they had.

Ancient temples – We study the Parthenon in Athens and the Pantheon in Rome amongst other important buildings. We consider the role of the temple as the centrepiece of the religious life of the ancient city.

Heracles – We learn about his Labours and consider why he was worshipped by both the Greeks and the Romans.

Underworld – Journeys to the Underworld were an important part of Greek and Roman mythology and we consider the stories of Persephone and Orpheus.

Festivals – We will learn about how the ancient Greeks and Romans celebrated their gods and their cities through elaborate and sometimes shocking festivals.

Gods – We will learn about the representations of the different gods by the Greeks and Romans and consider how and why they behave so differently to modern figures of worship.



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Assessment of the Course

Written Examination

100%

NEA/Coursework

No

The department follows the OCR specification. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of the topics are assessed in two 90 minute examinations (Myth and Religion and The Homeric World) at the end of Fifth Year.

Further Information

Mr Thorley is happy to answer any further questions. Further information on the syllabus is available on the examination board website: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017



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