

Classical Civilisation A Level

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Why King's?

Facilities

- Many lessons taught in historic Edgar Tower
- Regular use of ICT facilities in lessons
- Extensive student library

Highlights

- Trips to classical sites in Italy

Who can take Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation brings students face to face with the cultures of Greece and Rome through the reading of literature in translation. Knowledge of Latin or Greek is not required nor is a GCSE in Classical Civilisation, but in order to succeed they will need a real curiosity about the past and a willingness to engage with new ideas.

We are confident that they will discover a world that is in some respects quite alien to ours yet in others, remarkably similar. English, Art and Drama and Theatre Studies combine particularly well with this course, but it would add variety and breadth to any set of options.

First Year Classical Civilisation

- Unit 1 The World of the Hero - The Odyssey
Unit 2 Culture and the Arts - Imperial Image

The World of the Hero: The Odyssey

This module deals with the society, values, history and archaeology of the era in which Homer's *Odyssey* was set. It will explain the concept of heroism with its associated ideas of justice and revenge and honour and reputation. The role of women will be examined and the contribution made by slaves to the society of the time. All of these ideas will be discovered through the literature where, of course, students will appreciate the narrative techniques, use of language and themes that make *The Odyssey* one of the most important epics of all time.

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. You will discover how Augustus Caesar, through careful management of public opinion, was able to convince society to accept one-man rule. From an examination of literature, visual material and culture of the period, you will learn how Augustus conveyed his personal brand to all social classes of Rome.

Academic Performance

100% A*-C Classics A Level

2023 Results



Second Year Classical Civilisation

- Unit 1 contd. The World of the Hero - (The *Odyssey*) and The *Aeneid*
Unit 3 Beliefs and Ideas - Politics of the Late Republic

The World of the Hero

This component provides students with the opportunity to appreciate the lasting legacy of ancient Greek literature and to explore the attitudes and values implicit in them. The epics of Homer, with their heroes, gods and exciting narratives, have been in continuous study since their conception, and remain popular with students and teachers today. This component also provides students with the opportunity to appreciate Virgil's *Aeneid*, a cornerstone and landmark in Western literature. Drawing inspiration from Homer, as well as from his own cultural and political context, Virgil explored what it was to be a hero in the Roman world and created a work which has proven enduringly popular.

Beliefs and Ideas: Politics of the Late Republic

The Late Roman Republic was a period of upheaval and conflicting views on how the Roman state should function. In this component students will study the political thought of the period by examining the writings of Cato the Younger, Julius Caesar, and Cicero. By examining their distinctive attitudes, political beliefs, conduct, and impact, students will explore the ways in which the later Republican *res publica* (state) developed, changed, and ultimately fell - difficulties familiar to states throughout history.

Prospects for classicists

There is no limit to what a classicist can do. Both Latin and Classical Civilisation form an excellent training for any vocation, for they are widely respected as academically rigorous disciplines that promote orderly thought processes, accurate use of language and a broad understanding of key cultural phenomena.