



Classical Civilisation

One year AS/Two year A Level

The Greeks and the Romans are often seen as the best of historical civilisations. In ideas, writing, art, politics and many other areas, they continue to have a profound influence on us today. On this course, you will explore the nature of those societies through their literature, social institutions, history, and the historical documents they have left us.

Requirements:

The College minimum to start an advanced level course is one grade B and four grade Cs at GCSE. Grade C or above in English Language is required. The student will also be expected to meet the Average Points Score for this subject. Students will need to be willing to undertake stimulating and challenging reading and to write to a high standard with plenty of support and advice from their tutors.

This subject will focus on:

- Greek literature
 - Homer's *Odyssey* – an epic poem about a hero's journey home, with the help and hindrance of the gods;
 - Greek tragedy - poetic dramas about love, revenge and death by Sophocles and Euripides;
 - Topics include: Fate and the gods v. human choice and responsibility; the concepts of our honour and heroism; the nature of ancient warfare; family; men and women; loyalty to your city; Greek and Roman religious beliefs; the use of mythological material to create great literature; and
- Greek and Roman history, politics and society
 - Women's lives as shown in a range of sources such as legal speeches, letters and histories, and a comedy by Aristophanes.
 - Roman history and biography – Tacitus and Suetonius on the lives of the Roman emperors Tiberius and Claudius.

You can expect to:

- read and understand ancient texts;
- write both short and long essay-style answers confidently;
- select from and comment on literary texts;
- analyse and evaluate ancient historical sources; and
- form arguments and work towards a conclusion.

Method of assessment:

Assessment is by two 1 hour 30 minute examinations each year. Answers will be a mixture of multi-part responses to an extract, and an essay.

Progression:

Classical Civilisation can lead to a wide variety of degree courses including Archaeology, Ancient History, Egyptology, English, Geology, History, Sociology and Psychology. Many career opportunities are available including specialist careers such as archaeologist, museum curator and archivist.

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Students can take part in trips to the British Museum, Greek tragic and comic theatre productions and, in 2011 or 2012, a study trip to Greece or Rome is a possibility.

Student Success at Havering Sixth Form College:

A number of Classical Civilisation students have gone on to study the subject at university. One said: "This subject will never leave me. Its influences are still visible today and it would be wrong to ignore it."

Ex Marshalls Park student, Thomas Wilcox, achieved an A at AS Level in both Classical Civilisation and History. Thomas plans to go to Kent University to study for a BA in History.

Classical Civilisation had a 100% pass rate at A2 Level in 2009.