

# Why study GCSE Classical Civilisation?



## What is Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is a wide ranging subject involving the study of literature, art, artefacts, archaeological sites, and the ancient historical context.

You don't need to know any languages, all the texts are in translation, and it doesn't matter if you haven't studied the Greeks and Romans since primary school; all you need is an interest in the Ancient World and its cultures.

From women in the Ancient World, to the study of religious beliefs and ancient ideas about war, Classical Civilisation involves interesting discussions about things that are still important today:

*... men grappled with exactly the same issues that we do: life, death, gods, sex, love, family, children, education, the nature of the world, our origins and development, the past, money, health, status, other cultures, friendship, power, patriotism, politics, law, crime, justice, empire, war.*

**Peter Jones, advisor to Classics For All, 'Taking the Long View'**

## Something different

One of the best things about Classical Civilisation is how many different things there are to study. If you enjoy subjects such as History, English, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology, then Classical Civilisation lets you do a bit of everything whilst studying two of the most important civilisations of the Western world.

Also who wouldn't want to know...

- Whether or not the Trojan War actually happened?
- What Romans did in the bath?
- Where Odysseus was all those years?
- How it felt to be on the front line of an ancient battle?
- How to insult your ex like a Roman?
- What the Romans did with the sacred chickens?
- How rude the Greeks were about their politicians?



## Is it any use?

Classical Civilisation is just as useful as other humanities subjects like History, Geography and Religious Studies. Subjects like this give you really good skills such as essay writing and source analysis, and teach you how to structure a good argument. They show you are good at thinking and evaluating, and also that you have an interest in people and cultures.

If you are planning to go on to sixth form then Classical Civilisation GCSE is great preparation for A Levels in a wide variety of subjects, from Art History to Politics to Law. It is usually counted alongside your other humanities choices when sixth forms are looking at your application.

If you want to go on to do vocational courses at sixth form, or go straight into the working world after your GCSEs, Classical Civilisation gives you a really wide range of knowledge and skills that you can use. Employers will be able to see that you are someone with broad interests who can communicate their ideas well.



*In Year 9, I was fascinated by Greek myths, and choosing to study Classical Civilisation for GCSE seemed like a great way to use this interest. Fair to say, it was not simply two years of learning how many children Zeus had, but I'm so glad it wasn't. Through GCSE, I started to understand much more about the people behind the stories, and how they lived so many hundreds of years ago. Particularly great for me was being taught about how the culture back then has influenced our own society so much - from democracy, to the Olympics, to the simple (but brilliant) fact that the Romans invented the doggy bag!*

*Classical Civilisation is a wonderful GCSE option, because it teaches you so much without you even noticing. It's such a fun subject, so you can actually enjoy gaining skills in the analysis of literary and material evidence, essay writing, the comparison of different eras of history, and much more. After taking this GCSE, having had no real prior knowledge of the subject, I went on to study Classical Civilisation A Level, and enjoyed that so much that I am now studying Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Oxford University!*

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