



AS/A Level Classical Civilisation

(Available for teaching from September 2008) – revised May 2007

Classical Civilisation is now part of the OCR Classics suite.

The Classics suite provides the opportunity for the study of classical sources in their contexts. It is flexible, creative, fair and accessible. It reflects the reality of Classics in the classroom and Classics teaching today.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering these OCR specifications?

- Developed based on revised QCA subject criteria specified following consultation with key stakeholders in the Classics teaching community.
- For the first time all Classics subjects will share the same aims and assessment objectives. OCR has responded to this major advance by developing an integrated suite of Classics specifications. OCR's Classics suite offers four named pathways (Latin, Classical Greek, Classical Civilisation and Ancient History) and in addition a new subject title, Classics.
- Reduced assessment burden on students as the number of units has been reduced from six units to four units (two at AS, two at A2).
- Simple straightforward assessment, with no coursework.
- The Classical Civilisation pathway offers the opportunity to study the Classical World from various different perspectives: archaeological; historical; cultural; literary. There is the possibility to focus the GCE mainly on the Classical Greek World or on the Roman World, or to create a broad ranging curriculum that spans both.
- Excellent preparation for students wishing to progress to further study. Designed to allow Classics to develop strongly in schools during the coming decade. These specifications will meet the requirements of QCA, and of schools and colleges anxious to retain or promote Classics as a discipline of study central to the Arts and Humanities curriculum.

AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Archaeology: Mycenae and the classical world	Mycenae and the classical world; AS Homer's Odyssey and Society; AS Roman Society and Thought; AS Greek Tragedy and its context; AS Greek Historians; AS City Life in Roman Italy; A2 Roman Britain: life in the outpost of the Empire; A2 Art and Architecture in the Greek World; A2 Comic Drama in the Ancient World; A2 Virgil and the world of the hero.	Optional
Homer's Odyssey and Society	Candidates will gain an appreciation of Homer's Odyssey and the society and values it represents.	Optional
Roman Society and Thought	Candidates will gain an appreciation of Roman society and history through a study of Roman literature (Pliny's Letters and examples of Satire from Horace, Petronius and Juvenal).	Optional
Greek Tragedy in its context	Candidates will gain an appreciation of the works of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, both as works of literature and as social documents.	Optional
Greek Historians	Candidates will study historical texts by Thucydides, Herodotus and Plutarch in order to understand the historical and political events they describe and the societies within which they were created.	Optional
City Life in Roman Italy	Candidates will study Pompeii, Herculaneum and Ostia in their social, cultural, political and historical contexts.	Optional

A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Roman Britain: Life in the outpost of the Empire	Candidates will study Romano-British society through literary and archaeological records.	Optional
Art and Architecture in the Greek World	Candidates will gain an appreciation of the Classical Greek World through a study of its sculpture, vase painting and architecture.	Optional
Comic Drama in the Ancient World	Candidates will study the works of Aristophanes, Menander and Plautus in their historical, literary and cultural contexts.	Optional
Virgil and the world of the hero	Candidates will study Virgil's Epic, the Aeneid, in literacy and cultural context. Candidates will read parts of Homer's Iliad to give depth to their study of the epic.	Optional

Candidates may, for the first time, combine units of Latin with units of Classical Civilisation Classical Greek and/or Ancient History by taking the new Classics pathway. For more information, read the AS/A Level Classics information sheet.

A candidate may not use a unit result towards more than one Certification.

To aggregate with two AS certifications, a candidate must have four distinct unit results (at A Level, they require eight distinct unit results for two certifications).

How are these qualifications assessed?

All units are assessed through a timetabled written examination.

Examination series are available every June.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from June 2009.

A2

First examination available from June 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of events run annually to support teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations.

Resources

You can download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Sample Assessment Materials are available for all units.
- Recommended reading lists for Classical Civilisation.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk to join the Classics e-community.