

# CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

## COURSE START



**Your tutors: Barbara Scalvini ([bss@varndean.ac.uk](mailto:bss@varndean.ac.uk)) and Marta Baranska ([mzb@varndean.ac.uk](mailto:mzb@varndean.ac.uk))**

Welcome to Classical Civilisation. We are so much looking forward to meeting you in September. In the meantime, we hope you are having a great holiday. Your tutors, Barbara and Marta.

Before your first lesson in September, you are expected to engage with your subjects by doing preparatory work. This will ensure you are well prepared for courses you start in September. It should take you approximately 5 hours to complete.

Course Name	Classical Civilisation A-Level
How this Course Start fits into the first term of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will provide us with useful information about the two Units you will start doing in September.</li> <li>It will provide you with the Historical context for 'Iliad' and 'Oedipus'.</li> </ul>
How will my Course Start learning be used in lessons?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The questions and research will enable you to understand the historical and mythological context of the first two units you will study.</li> </ul>
Course Start learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will help you understand the cultural context of both texts.</li> </ul>
Study Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research skills.</li> <li>Analytical skills.</li> <li>Proofreading for accuracy</li> </ul>

## Expectations For The Classical Civilisation Course

Our specification is OCR

[315133-specification-accredited-a-level-classical-civilisation-h408.pdf](#)

<b>The World of the Hero (H408/11)</b> This is a compulsory component consisting of an in-depth study of: Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid This component is solely focused on the study of literature in translation.	<b>The World of the Hero (H408/11)</b> 100 marks 2 hours 30 minutes	Written paper 40% of total A Level
<b>Greek Theatre (H408/21)</b> Components in this group involve the study of visual and material culture, this is combined with the study of literature in translation.	<b>Greek Theatre (H408/21)</b> 75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes	Written paper 30% of total A Level
<b>Love and Relations (H408/32)</b> Components in this group involve an area of classical thought, in combination with either the study of literature in translation.	<b>Love and Relations (H408/32)</b> 75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes	Written paper 30% of total A Level

## **First Task**

For **Greek Drama** we would like you to complete a mini research project on the **Festival of Dionysus**, otherwise known as the '**Greater Dionysia**'. This was the most important event of the year in 5th C. BCE Athens. Some of the questions you should include in your project would be information about:

1. When was it performed?
2. Who performed?
3. Who organised it?
4. Who watched it?
5. Why did they go?
6. What did it look like?
7. What were the plays about?
8. Why was it considered a political event?
9. Who paid for it?
10. Write a paragraph on each of the following plays using the internet or your own knowledge and **cite your source**. *Oedipus*, *The Bacchae*, *Frogs*.
11. Write a paragraph on each of the following: Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes.

We would like a coloured booklet with images and information. The more colour and information the more likely you are to remember it all for the future. We expect a detailed and comprehensive piece of work showing some real effort. Please use as many sources as you can so you get a really good picture of what Greek Theatre was all about.

## **Second Task**

You will be studying the epic poem '*Iliad*'. We would like you to answer the following questions to the best of your ability. You should use the internet but do try to look at various sites rather than going straight to Wikipedia. We would like your answers to be as full as possible. The *Iliad* is set approximately 52 days before the end of the Trojan War which has been going on for nearly 10 years.

1. At the marriage of Thetis and Peleus Zeus refuses to ask Eris--the personification of strife and dissonance--to the wedding. She turns up anyway and as a result there is discord. What does she do which starts the turmoil off?
2. What are the names of the three goddesses who argue about this?
3. Paris has to make a choice. Why and what about?

4. Why do you think Zeus orders that Paris should be asked to judge who should have the apple?
5. When Paris achieves his desire it sets in the causation of the Trojan War. What caused the Trojan War to start? There are a few theories about this; so please do some research to find some theories you think might be valid. Then write about them.
6. Some of the Greek heroes are Greek heroes Achilles, Odysseus, Ajax, Diomedes, Patroklos, and Nestor. Look these characters up and write a paragraph on each noting some of the characteristics you can acknowledge.
7. Paris was saved by a goddess. Which one, why and what happened to him?
8. Where did the Ancient Greeks believe that Troy was located? When did the war happen?
9. The main source for the story of the Trojan War is Homer. Write a paragraph about what you can find out about him.
10. The epic poem, '*Iliad*', from 8th C. BCE Ancient Greek, is set in 12th/11th C. BCE Troy. In the original Ancient Greek, the poem begins with the word '*menis*', meaning divine and/or ethical anger. This word has considerable significance, not just to the poem, but also to understanding the human condition (what makes us human). What are your views on the concept, '*menis*'?

#### **SUGGESTED READING FOR FUN THIS SUMMER:**

- Stephen Fry, *Troy* (also available in audiobook)
- Madeline Miller, *Song of Achilles* (a novel inspired by the *Iliad*, also in audiobook)

**You will need to come to College ready to start with the following books:**

**HOMER, *Iliad***, translated by Rieu, Penguin, ISBN 9780140447941 [please procure this EXACT edition by checking the ISBN is the same]

**SOPHOCLES, *The Three Theban Plays***, translated by Fagles, Penguin, ISBN 9780140444254 [please procure this EXACT edition by checking the ISBN is the same]

**KNIGHTS, *The world of the hero: OCR classical civilisation AS and A level component 11***, ISBN 9781350015074

**HANCOCK, RENSHAW, SWIFT, *Greek theatre and Imperial image: OCR classical civilisation AS and A level components 21 and 22***: ISBN 9781350015111