



St John's Curriculum Overview – Year 12

Subject title	Classical Civilisation
Setting arrangements	Mixed prior attainment.
Time allowance each fortnight	9 hours

Introduction

Classical Civilisation is a subject which can be chosen at A-level with no previous knowledge of the subject. We follow the OCR Specification, which has 3 exams at the end of the 2 year course. In year 1 we study half of the World of the Hero module (the Odyssey) and we study Greek Theatre. In year 2, we complete the World of the Hero module (the Aeneid) and the Beliefs (Love and Relationships) module.

Topics, Skills and Assessment covered during the course

Term Topic	Subject Specific topic Questions	Subject content	Assessment details
Term 1 World of the Hero - Odyssey	<p>What was a Homeric hero? How does Odysseus follow or deviate away from the norms of heroism? What is xenia? How should it be followed? How skilled is Odysseus as a storyteller? What are the literary techniques that Homer uses? How are men, women and gods represented? The role of fantasy vs reality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Odyssey “adventure” books 9-12. • Analyse literary techniques that Homer uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
Term 1 Greek Theatre	<p>What was the standard layout of the Greek Theatre and why was the theatre designed the way it was? What was the City Dionysia? How did the theatre link into Greek religion? What was Greek tragedy? What can primary sources tell us about the theatre and Greek tragedy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the origins of the theatre. • Be able to identify and label a plan of the Greek theatre. Look at common examples (e.g. Theatre of Dionysus at Athens) and compare to uncommon examples (e.g. Theatre at Thorikos). • Be able to explain what the City Dionysia was; how long it lasted, what happened, its importance to Athenians. • Look at Aristotle’s view of tragedy and what the common traits of a tragedy were expected to be. 	<p>1 FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source work – vases, theatres, plays. How useful to us are they about the ancient Greek theatre? 	
Term 2 World of the Hero - Odyssey	<p>What was a Homeric hero? How does Odysseus follow or deviate away from the norms of heroism? What is xenia? How should it be followed? How skilled is Odysseus as a storyteller? What are the literary techniques that Homer uses? How are men, women and gods represented? The role of fantasy vs reality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Odyssey books 5-8. • Analyse literary techniques that Homer uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
Term 2 Greek Theatre – Oedipus the King	<p>Who was Sophocles? What is the story of Oedipus the King? Why is it considered to be one of the greatest plays of all time? What dramatic techniques are associated with this play? Is life dictated by fate or free will? Is Oedipus to blame? Does he deserve his punishment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Sophocles' Oedipus the King (in translation). • Analyse dramatic techniques that Sophocles uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
Term 3 World of the Hero - Odyssey	<p>How is normal Greek society represented? What was a Homeric hero? How does Odysseus follow or deviate away from the norms of heroism? What is xenia? How should it be followed? How skilled is Odysseus as a storyteller? What are the literary techniques that Homer uses? How are men, women and gods represented? The role of fantasy vs reality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Telemachy – Books 1-4 of Odyssey • Analyse literary techniques that Homer uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
Term 3 Greek Theatre – The Bacchae	<p>Who was Euripides? What is the story of the Bacchae? Why is it considered to be one of the greatest plays of all time? What dramatic techniques are associated with this play? Is life dictated by fate or free will? Are the gods fair? Does Pentheus deserve his punishment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Euripides' Bacchae (in translation). • Analyse dramatic techniques that Euripides uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>

<p>Term 4 World of the Hero - Odyssey</p>	<p>How was revenge and justice viewed by the Greeks? How is normal Greek society represented? What was a Homeric hero? How does Odysseus follow or deviate away from the norms of heroism? What is xenia? How should it be followed? How skilled is Odysseus as a storyteller? What are the literary techniques that Homer uses? How are men, women and gods represented? The role of fantasy vs reality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Books 13-17 • Analyse literary techniques that Homer uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
<p>Term 4 Greek Theatre – Comedy and the Frogs</p>	<p>How does Greek Comedy differ from Greek Tragedy? What were the costumes and masks like? What was the typical plot of a Greek Comedy? Who was Aristophanes and why is he the “Father of Comedy”? What was the historical background to Aristophanes’ play, <i>Frogs</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the key differences between Greek Comedy and Greek Tragedy; typical plots, masks, costumes etc. • Look at evidence of other comic playwrights and how they led to Aristophanes’ work. • Explore the historical background of what was happening in Athens at the time this play was performed. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
<p>Term 5 World of the Hero - Odyssey</p>	<p>How was revenge and justice viewed by the Greeks? How is normal Greek society represented? What was a Homeric hero? How does Odysseus follow or deviate away from the norms of heroism? What is xenia? How should it be followed? How skilled is Odysseus as a storyteller? What are the literary techniques that Homer uses? How are men, women and gods represented? The role of fantasy vs reality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Books 18-22 • Analyse literary techniques that Homer uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
<p>Term 5 Greek Theatre – Frogs</p>	<p>Who was Aristophanes? What is the story of the <i>Frogs</i>? Why is it considered to be one of the greatest comedies of all time? What dramatic techniques are associated with this play? What do we think about the representation of the gods? How is tragedy and its playwrights represented? What different types of humour are represented?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Aristophanes’ <i>Frogs</i> (in translation). • Analyse dramatic techniques that Aristophanes uses and the effect that they have. • Analyse comedic techniques that Aristophanes uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). Informal: Regular Q & A</p>

Term 6 World of the Hero - Odyssey	<p>How was revenge and justice viewed by the Greeks? How is normal Greek society represented? What was a Homeric hero? How does Odysseus follow or deviate away from the norms of heroism? What is xenia? How should it be followed? How skilled is Odysseus as a storyteller? What are the literary techniques that Homer uses? How are men, women and gods represented? The role of fantasy vs reality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Books 23-24 • Analyse literary techniques that Homer uses and the effect that they have. • Explore key themes and characters. • Be able to put events into context. • Revision of themes • Mocks 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). FORMAL: 1x mock exam Informal: Regular Q & A</p>
Term 6 – Greek Theatre Revision	<p>What common themes run across all plays? How are men, women, gods and slaves represented in each of these plays? Why are these plays considered to be exemplar material?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and explain main themes and characters of the plays. • Look at the “bigger picture” of theatre, now we’ve studied a variety of plays. • Mock exams. 	<p>FORMAL: 1x long essay question – thematic or character FORMAL: 1x shorter question (context or mini-essay). FORMAL: 1x mock exam Informal: Regular Q & A</p>

Resources Recommended for Revision and where they are available:

- E.V. Rieu’s translation of the Odyssey (provided by school) – introductory notes
- Yorknotes – revision guide, available on amazon, or in all good bookstores
- Online revision – Sparknotes, shmoop, litcharts
- Bibliography – handed out in the first week with introductory notes
- Massolit videos – we currently have a subscription in school, but free access on youtube to a limited number of videos

Homework

- Homework will usually be set every lesson, or at least once a week per module.
- Homework amount takes into account private study periods that students have.
- A minimum of 2 hours would be expected for the students to spend on homework per module (World of the Hero/Theatre) each week.
- Usual activities will include reading preparation in advance of next lesson, questions on the reading, character and theme analysis.

Additional support and help for the course

TBA

Extra-Curricular:

- Year 12/13 trip to Greece
- Theatre trips (when on, and where applicable)
- Lectures (when on, and where applicable)