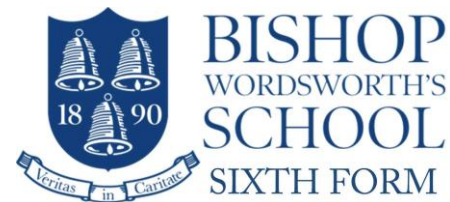


Classical Civilisation

OCR Specification



General information:

Classical Civilisation is the study of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds through their literary and archaeological legacies. The course considers the impact of these civilisations on our society today. Students will develop a deep understanding and empathy for these societies which form the models for the modern Western world.

Course content:

In Year 12: the course is divided into the study of iconic Greek literature - 'The Odyssey' to discover what this legend can tell us about the society that produced this brand of hero. On the Roman side we look at those events which led to the Fall of the Republic through the personalities of famous historical Roman characters.

In Year 13: For the Greeks, we look at their Art and how they made these images which survive so vividly from antiquity but also why they celebrated these stories and events. On the Roman side, we read the Aeneid, Virgil's famous poem written at the start of a new era for the Romans, when the Caesars would rule Rome.

How is the course taught and assessed?

The course is taught by specialist teachers through discussion, lecture, audio-visual media and independent study. Visits to sites of interest are also key to understanding the lasting legacy of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Students play a key role in learning to present topics to the rest of their class.

Assessment is largely written, either short-answer questions or longer essay-type questions but supported practice means that students are very well-prepared. There are internal exams at the end of Year 12 and a mock in Year 13 to assess progress. The final exams take place in the summer of Year 13 and comprise of three module papers.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 6 in a Humanities subject. No prior knowledge of Latin or Greek is necessary.

Results information:

Results are consistently good; in 2025, 83% of students passed at A*-B.

Top destinations for students:

Oxford/Cambridge Russell Group universities

Law, teaching, accounting, archaeology, banking, business, communications, computer science, film, journalism, marketing, museum work.

Beyond the curriculum:

Students can enjoy visiting lecturers and to sites of interest both domestic and foreign. Classics students may also attend lectures organised by the BWS History Society.