

Classical Greek GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Students with a particular interest in the Ancient World and who have enjoyed their study of Latin in Years 7 and 8 are encouraged to broaden their understanding of the language and culture of the period by opting to study Classical Greek GCSE. In undertaking this linguistically rigorous GCSE, they will be put in contact with the origins of European civilization and will be introduced to the earliest works of European literature through original works by Greek authors.

This is a standalone GCSE which can be studied instead of Latin or in addition to it. The two languages share common features which naturally support each other. For GCSE Greek we follow the OCR syllabus.

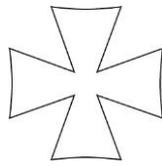
In Year 9, students are introduced to the Greek alphabet, basic forms of nouns (using a case system similar to that learnt in Latin during Years 7 and 8), adjectives and verbs and approximately 200 items of vocabulary. Students are expected to be able to recognise and manipulate the language while making connections with English vocabulary through derivations. The course also contains an introduction to Greek culture through examination of the history, culture, and development of 5th century BC Athens.

By the time of the Year 10 mid-GCSE mock examinations, students will have met all the remaining linguistic material and vocabulary required for the language component of the GCSE exam. Students will then begin applying their knowledge of Greek to original Greek works through the introduction of Greek literature. Students will read one piece of prose (usually taken from **Herodotus' Histories**, Europe's oldest surviving work of history) and one piece of verse literature (usually a play by either **Sophocles** or **Euripides**, two of the three great tragedians of 5th century Athens). Throughout Year 11, students continue their study of Greek literature alongside consolidating their language ability and increasing the fluidity of their reading and comprehension skills.

GCSE Overview:

There are three final examinations for Greek GCSE encompassing both language and literature.

- Greek Language (1 hr 30 mins) – students will be expected to answer questions about passages of Greek which they have not seen before (one passage based on a story from Greek myth and one based on an event in Greek history), answer a small number of questions based on the grammatical structure of the language or translate some short sentences into Greek, and translate a passage into English.
- Greek Prose Literature (1hr) – students will be expected to answer questions related to the prose text which we have read together in class. These may be



short comprehension questions, translation questions or longer questions relating to the style of the author.

- Greek Verse Literature (1hr) – like the prose exam, students will be expected to answer questions related to the poetry we have read in class. Again, these may be short comprehension questions, translation questions or longer questions relating to the style of the author.

Breakdown:

In the final examination, marks are awarded as follows:

- Greek language: 50%, Prose Literature: 25%, Verse Literature: 25%