



A Level Classical Greek

Why study Classical Greek?

The ancient Greeks continue to fascinate us. Their achievements in so many areas were remarkable, and their influence can still be observed today in myriad areas from literature and art, to philosophy and religion, politics, mathematics and medicine.

The A Level Classical Greek course is intellectually rigorous and challenging, but it is also immensely rewarding, offering students the opportunity to further their linguistic proficiency while also delving deeper, via the study and exploration of the set texts, into the fascinating history and culture of the ancient Greeks. In learning more about the ancient Greeks, their attitudes, beliefs and customs, we come to learn more about ourselves and realise that, despite the time lapse of over two and a half millennia, humans and the human condition have not really changed that much at all.

Entry requirements

Normally students are advised to have attained a grade 7 (8 preferred) or above in their Classical Greek GCSE in order successfully to pursue the subject at A Level.

What does the course involve?

Greek Language:

This is very much a continuation of what you have studied up till now in Greek. There is some more grammar to learn - you finally get to meet the perfect and pluperfect tenses! - and you will become proficient at tackling more challenging constructions, meeting sentences of greater length and complexity. At A Level, the passages for translation will be taken from two specified authors, namely Xenophon and Euripides. Additionally, you will gain some experience of translating from English into Greek, a discipline which will not only prove intellectually stimulating but which will also serve to secure your knowledge and recall of the essential accidence and syntax.

Greek Literature:

You will study one prose set text and one verse set text in Year 12 and one additional prose text and one additional verse text in Year 13. In 2025-2026, the texts on offer include Plato's *Republic*, in which the nature of ideal state is discussed and Homer's *The Iliad* 16 and 24, focusing on the death of Patroclus and the recovery of Hector's body from the enraged Achilles in the final year of the Trojan War.

Exam Board

OCR H444

How is the course assessed?

The A Level qualification comprises four externally assessed written examinations:

Unseen translation	1 hour 45 minutes.	33% of total A Level
Prose composition or comprehension	1 hour 15 minutes.	17% of total A Level
Prose literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level
Verse literature	2 hours.	25% of total A Level



What can an A Level in Classical Greek lead to?

Classical Greek is obviously an advantage for anyone wishing to read Classics at university but is also a subject valued in its own right by admissions tutors and employers. It is well respected for its intellectual integrity and rigour and goes well with both arts and science subjects. Very few schools are able to offer Classical Greek at any level, least of all A Level, so an A Level in this subject really does stand out on your UCAS form and curriculum vitae. Former A Level Classical Greek students have gone on to read a wide variety of subjects at university, including Classics, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Classics and Arabic, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Physics, English Literature, Medicine, Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic.

What skills will be developed in the Classical Greek A Level course?

As well as gaining a deeper insight into this incredibly influential civilisation, the Classical Greek A Level course facilitates the development of a wide range of skills that are highly valued by universities and employers alike. Grammar and translation work encourages analytical and problem-solving skills, while the challenge of conveying nuance and finding the *mot juste* promotes intellectual flexibility and linguistic sensitivity. Studying the literature reinforces these skills as well as developing your ability to appreciate the literary techniques, styles and genres of the prescribed authors and your ability to articulate an informed response to the material at hand, using a range of appropriate evidence to construct coherent, logical and persuasive arguments and evidence-based judgements.

Classical Greek is taught at Loughborough High School and Loughborough Grammar School.

