



GCSE
Classical
Civilisation

Route 1: Homeric
World

OCR J199

CONTENT WARNING

This course is a GCSE and is therefore aimed at students of 14+. Students who are younger than this are more than welcome, but there will be reference to adult themes from time to time. This course contains references to sexual assault and rape, violence, warfare and images of (ancient) nudity. I do not cover these things gratuitously but they are a core part of the course at times and feature in the textbook.

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Key Information

Course Price	£380 divided over 12 months at £30, +£20 deposit.
Course Length	1 Year of 48 Lessons
Lesson Length	1 hour 30 minutes
Lesson Times	Tuesdays 11:40-1:10pm
Exam Board	OCR
Qualification	GCSE
Course Code	J199
Exams	2 Papers of 1 hour 30 mins



Component 1: Myth and Religion

Our first unit of study will be all about mythology and religion within both Greece and Rome.

We will explore a range of famous characters such as Heracles, Theseus, Romulus and Remus. We will read myths as told by ancient writers such as Ovid, Homer and Livy.

We will examine Greek and Roman temples, sacrifices and myths about the death and the Underworld.

*‘Heracles, Zeus’ son, I will celebrate, who, greatest and best
of those on earth, was born in Thebes’ beautiful places,
Alcmene having slept with the black-clouded son of Cronus:
At one time, by lands and seas impossible to count,
He wandered, sent away by Lord Eurystheus,
Many things he did that were reckless, many things he suffered:
Now, however, in the beautiful abode of snowy Olympus
He dwells, enjoying himself with beautiful-ankled Hebe.
Farewell, lord, Zeus’s son: grant both excellence and happiness.’*

— Homer



Component 2: Homeric World

Our second unit of study will be all about the Mycenaean civilisation; the predecessors of the Ancient Greeks and is divided into two parts: Culture and Literature.

We will explore how the Mycenaeans lived by looking at their architecture and art. We will also look in detail at the man who discovered much of our archaeological evidence, Heinrich Schliemann.

In the literature section we will read and study some sections of Homer's epic *The Odyssey*. Action, excitement, magic and monsters await!

His answer was devoid of pity. "Stranger, you are a foreigner or a fool, telling me to fear and revere the gods, since the Cyclopes care nothing for aegis-bearing Zeus: we are greater than they. I would spare neither you nor your friends, to evade Zeus' anger, but only as my own heart prompted."

- Homer



Examination Information

2 exam papers of 1 hour 30 minutes each.

There will be a range of partial and full mock exams throughout the year. We take mock exams in lessons which will be recorded in case we need evidence of work due to any exam complications in 2026.

I mark all exams and provide feedback. We will study all the required exam skills in class and most homework will be based on exam questions.

Exams are readily available across the county at independent exam centres such as A3, Faregos and Tutors & Exams. I am partnered with Tutors & Exams but this does not mean you must take the exam with them.

The deadline for exam entries is usually around the end of January. I suggest that you sign up before then to avoid any delays, especially if you require access arrangements due to any special needs (extra time, use of a laptop etc.)

I **cannot** sign up to exam for you, but I can offer help and advice. It is also no me who can decide if a student requires extra time etc; that's something you must arrange with the exam centre you choose to sit the exam with.

This specific GCSE includes some essay writing. The student must be able to write a couple of pages of prose A4 confinity to achieve good grades

You can find examples of exam papers on the OCR website.

Assessment and Homework

In order to track student's progress, I ask them to complete regular homework and mock exam assessments.

Homework will be set every other week and will usually be based on exam questions so that they can be marked and graded.

All students must have access to a printer to print off homework and exam papers.

All students must have a way of sending me completed homework. You can either photograph this and send it or scan it in. (If you have completed work on the computer than this is a simple email).

It is much appreciated if work can be sent in .pdf form as this drastically cuts down the time it takes to mark.

All homework will be returned, marked, within two days of being sent unless we are taking a holiday. Most homework is sent back the next day.

Drop-In

If a student requires help with homework, or anything else, they can email me at any time or join my drop-in session every **Saturday from 11-12pm**.

This session is open to all students and their parents for free and you can ask me anything!

Reports

I send out written reports each November to give parents and students a good idea of how they are progressing. This report will show how regularly homework is completed, attendance and average grades so far.

How Lessons Work

All lessons are online and use the Zoom platform. Students will have a link that they can use for the entire year.

All lessons are recorded so should you miss a lesson, you can catch up. These are all stored on a central Google Drive. These are also great for revision!

Students are not required to use cameras or mics, although they are more than welcome to do so. The exception to this is during mock exams when all students are expected to have a camera pointing at their work, not faces and must have their mics muted.

Students will be able to use the Zoom chat function during lessons if they are uncomfortable with speaking.

Equipment you will need:

- Camera
- Mic
- Stable internet connection
- Notepads and pens for notetaking
- Working printer for printing off assessments etc.

Holidays and Taking Breaks

This is an intensive course and as such we do not stop for most holidays, including Bank Holidays.

We will have four weeks off throughout the year:

Summer	August 11 th – 15 th
Winter	December 22 nd – January 2 nd
Spring	April 7 th – 11 th

As all lessons are recorded, it's no problem at all to take additional weeks off. Please be prepared to catch up with missed lessons though by watching recordings and doing any homework set.

If you cannot make a mock exam for any reason, please send me an email. We can usually work out an alternative time to sit these exams.

Textbooks

There is one required textbook for this course:

OCR Classical Civilisation GCSE Route 1 (ISBN: 9781350014879)

You will also need access to the Prescribed Sources for each of our two units. These can be found on the OCR website. You can either print them out or use the online versions.

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017/planning-and-teaching/>

