

GCSE Classical Civilisations

<p>Unit 1: City Life in the Classical World: Athens The focus of this option is the everyday life of an ancient Greek citizen in one of the most flourishing city states in ancient times. Candidates should have a basic understanding of the concept of democracy as practised by Athens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The gods• Temples• Sacrifice• The Panathenaia• The City Dionysia• Tragedy and comedy• The <i>Oikos</i>• Education	<p>Unit 2: Epic and Myth: Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> This option will require candidates to have a detailed knowledge of the set books, and to analyse, evaluate and respond to them in their cultural and literary context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Odysseus as a hero• the role and characterisation of Odysseus, Calypso, Nausicaa, Alcinous, Arete, Polyphemus, the Cyclopes, Circe and Athene• the presentation of the Sirens, Scylla and Charybdis• the role of the gods• the role of women (to include Calypso and Circe as well as the mortal women)• Xenia (the guest–host relationship) in the <i>Odyssey</i>• civilisation and barbarism• Homer's narrative and descriptive techniques• Homer as a story-teller and the idea of epic.
<p>Unit 3: Pompeii The focus of this unit is the study of Pompeii as a unique source for our understanding of everyday life in a prosperous town at the height of the Roman Empire.</p> <p>The original site Destruction Houses The Forum Government Inns and Thermopolia The Theatre The Baths</p>	<p>Unit 4: Culture and Society in the Classical World: Controlled Assessment based on Sophocles play called <i>Antigone</i></p> <p>Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• role and characterisation of Antigone and Creon• the role and characterisation of the other characters and the Chorus• the role of women• the role of the gods, oracles, and fate• Sophocles' literary and dramatic techniques and the staging of the play. <p>Contexts:</p>

The Amphitheatre

- Greek mythological background
- the performance of the play and its audience
- the literary and cultural context of the play
- the political, social and moral context of the play
- the continuing influence of Sophoclean drama on later times, and similarities and differences between the ideas and values expressed in Sophocles' *Antigone* and those of later times.