



The Parthenon in Athens

Year 12 Induction Lesson: Classical Civilisation at SJWMS

What is Classics?

- Classics is the study of Greek and Roman history, literature, drama, culture and religion.
- It is focussed on the analysis of literature, historical writings, inscriptions, archaeological evidence, etc.
- We use these sources to explore the beliefs and values of the Greeks and Romans.
- Everything in Classics is translated for you – no knowledge of Greek or Latin is needed.

How does Classics work at SJWMS?

- You will have 10 hour-long lessons a fortnight (the same as all A-Level subjects).
- This lessons will be split equally between myself (Miss Harrison) and Mrs Dennis.
- Each of us teach one topic in Year 12 and one topic in Year 13.
- There are three exams at the end of Year 13 that make up your grade – there is no coursework and there are no AS exams at the end of Year 12.

What do we study in Classics?

- There are three areas of the subject that the exam board (OCR) requires you to study – Literature, Visual and Material Culture, and Classical Thought.
- Literature is covered by the compulsory “World of the Hero” module, in which you study Homer’s *Odyssey* and Virgil’s *Aeneid*. This module is worth 40% of your final grade.
- Visual and Material Culture is covered by the “Greek Theatre” module, in which you study three plays (two tragedies, one comedy) as well as the structure of Greek theatres,

evidence of costumes and masks, and drama festivals. This module is worth 30% of your final grade.

- Classical Thought is covered by the “Greek Religion” module, in which you study what the Greeks believed and how they worshipped, looking at mythology but also physical evidence such as temples, statues and inscriptions. This module is worth 30% of your final grade.

What do we do in Year 12?

- With Miss Harrison, you study Homer’s epic text *The Odyssey*, which tells the story of the Greek hero Odysseus, and the struggles he faces trying to return home from the Trojan War. This is the first set text for the “World of the Hero” module.
- With Mrs Dennis, you study the “Greek Theatre” module, which focusses on two tragic plays – Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex* and Euripides’ *Bacchae* – and one comic play – Aristophanes’ *Frogs*.

What do we do in Year 13?

- With Miss Harrison, you study the “Greek Religion” module, which looks at the gods of the Greeks, as well as their temples, festivals and priests, and also involves a short study of the beginnings of Greek philosophy.
- With Mrs Dennis, you study Virgil’s epic text *The Aeneid*, a Roman counterpart to the Greek *Odyssey* and *Iliad*, which tells the story of Aeneas, leader of the Trojan refugees who have survived the Trojan war, as they attempt to found a new city. This is the second set text for the “World of the Hero” module.

Anything else you need to know?

- Greek Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes – this teaches the basics of Ancient Greek, and is popular as a “skill” for anyone doing their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, as well as with anyone who is thinking of taking Classics at university.
- Each year, two Classics Prefects are appointed – their duties are promoting the subject at open evenings, and running a lunchtime support session once a week for KS3 Latin students – Latin to GCSE is a requirement for this role.
- Circumstances permitting, there are opportunities to visit the British Museum in London to see many of the artefacts on the Greek Theatre and Greek Religion modules, as well as attending a performance of a Greek play (in English).

If you have any further questions about the content of the subject, expectations, examinations, etc, please contact me via email – stephanie.harrison@sjwms.org.uk

And now onto some work – it is essential for all three of your modules that you have a good knowledge of the Greek and Roman gods and goddesses – they are prevalent in both epics, all three of the plays, and of course in the Greek Religion module. Below there is a table containing the 14 major gods and goddesses in the Greek world, which I would like you to fill in – I have done Zeus for you to give you an idea of the level of detail I am looking for. This something I would regard as foundation knowledge – the kind of information I would expect you to already know come September.

Major Greek Deities

The Gods:

Greek Name:	Roman Name:	Relationship to other Gods and Goddesses	Roles and Responsibilities
Zeus	Jupiter	Brother of Poseidon, Hades, Demeter and Hestia, brother AND wife of Hera, and father of ALL the other gods and goddesses except for (depending on the myth) Aphrodite and Hephaestus.	King of the gods and ruler of Olympus. God of thunder. Responsible for justice, hospitality, keeping oaths and protecting strangers.
Poseidon			
Hades			
Apollo			
Ares			
Hephaestus			
Hermes			
Dionysus			

The Goddesses:

Greek Name:	Roman Name:	Relationship to other Gods and Goddesses	Roles and Responsibilities
Hera			
Demeter			
Hestia			
Aphrodite			
Artemis			
Athene			