

Revising GCSE Classical Civilisation

The Classical Civilisation GCSE consists of the following **two papers**:

- Paper 1: Civilisation 2 hours 15 mins 60% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Literature 1 hour 30 mins 40% of the final mark

CIVILISATION TOPICS

- Greek Religion
- Home and Family in Athens (JEP's set only)
- Sparta and the Spartan System (CLR's set only)
- Roman Sport and Leisure

LITERATURE TOPICS

- Homer *Odyssey* Books 9, 10, 21-23
- Homer *Iliad* Books 1, 9, 22 and 24 (CLR's set only)
- Virgil *Aeneid* Books 1, 2 and 4 (JEP's set only)

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE?

- There is a lot of material to get through, so start your revision early.
- Make sure you have all the books, notes, revision guides and pamphlets of past papers you need before the end of term. If you need new copies, ask us in the Classics Room.
- Make sure you have covered the exam board's specification completely by following the link to [GCSE Classical Civilisation Topics](#), where you will find a tick-list for all the topics you have covered.
- There is a useful online resource at: www.cambridgescp.com/page.php?p=pe^research_c^p2&cat_id=300000000 By making appropriate choices, you can find a lot of information on just about any aspect of the civilisation topics. But your top priority is to revise your notes.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- For the **Greek and Roman Civilisation** paper you have 2 hours 15 minutes, and in that time you must answer questions on **three** topics. For each topic, three context questions are set (each worth 12 marks) and you must choose **two**. Two essays are set (each worth 16): you must choose **one**.
- For the **Greek and Roman Literature** paper you have 1 hour 30 minutes, and in that time you must answer questions on **two** topics. For each topic, three context questions are set (each worth 12 marks) and you must choose **two**. Two essays are set (each worth 16) and you must choose **one**.
- The timing works out at roughly a mark a minute.

TIPS FOR ANSWERING CONTEXT QUESTIONS

- Choose **context questions** carefully. Read the four mark question and make sure you can answer this confidently before you start.
- Do not do all three context questions: this wastes time, and the examiners will not mark the third context question.
- If a question only requires a one word answer, put one word. Otherwise write in full sentences.

TIPS FOR WRITING ESSAYS

- Each of the **essays** has 8 marks for factual content and 8 marks for evaluation and analysis.
- It may be useful to write a quick essay plan in bullet point form to guide and structure your answer. A simple table with 'for' and 'against' columns works well.
- Your essay should include at least eight paragraphs. Roughly speaking, four paragraphs covers a side of A4. So you should aim to write one and a half to two sides.
- Each paragraph should include a statement referring to the question, an example (a factual detail/example from the text) and an explanation (explaining what this example shows and how it is

relevant to the question). This is the **sex** technique! That is to say: **s**tatement **e**xample
explanation.