

Revising GCSE Greek

The Greek GCSE consists of the following **three papers**:

- Paper 1: Language 2 hours 50% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Verse Literature 1 hour 30 mins 30% of the final mark
- Paper 3: Prose Literature 1 hour 20% of the final mark

VERSE LITERATURE SET TEXT: Homer *Odyssey* IX, lines 231-400

PROSE LITERATURE SET TEXT: Section XV B 'The Ethiopians' in *Tales from Herodotus*

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR PAPER 1?

- Remember that you will have to do an unseen comprehension and two unseen translations in this paper. You need to concentrate on revising **vocabulary** and **grammar**.
- As an alternative to the second unseen translation, the examiners set English-to-Greek sentences. **Do not under any circumstances attempt to do these, even if they look easy.**
- For a complete list of the prescribed vocabulary, go to the OCR website at: http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_9943_kd_l_gcse_spec.pdf The vocabulary for the language paper starts on page 34. Ignore the vocabulary list for the English-to-Greek sentences in Paper 1 that starts on page 46 — you will not be doing the sentences in the exam.
- When **revising vocabulary** find the method that works for you, and stick to it. For example, write out words that you just cannot remember, and concentrate on these — don't waste your time revising words you already know. Flash cards make a simple but effective self-tester.
- When **revising grammar** it is probably better to consolidate what you are already familiar with than to try to learn a lot of new stuff at this late stage.
- For the absolute essentials, follow the [Greek Grammar](#) link. For advice on untangling sentences, follow the [Greek Sentence Structure](#) link.

- An online programme for testing Greek vocabulary and grammar is available at: <http://www.cambridgescp.com/page.php?p=ag^top^home> If you are using the vocabulary testers, make sure you ask for OCR GCSE. Incidentally, there is also a link to another version of the complete GCSE vocabulary.
- Finally, remember that translating Greek is a skill, and like all skills it must be practised. If you want practice passages, just come along to the Classics Room: we will be happy to oblige.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN PAPER 1

- When answering comprehension questions, always answer in full sentences.
- Observe the limits of any quotations from the text: information from outside the quoted Greek will receive no credit.
- When doing unseen translation, stick close to the Greek: accuracy is far more important than good English style.
- **Never leave a blank** in the unseen translation: it has to be wrong. If you get stuck on a word, at least put down something that sounds right.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR PAPERS 2 AND 3?

- Be organised, and sort out your revision materials **now**. If you need further copies of translations and notes, ask us in the Classics Department Room.
- Make yourself thoroughly familiar with the translations and notes. Many questions simply require knowledge of what is going on in the passage. Questions about a writer's use of language are harder, but you will find plenty of discussion of language in our notes, and these will help you develop useful lit crit skills.
- Revise the set text material gradually over a period of time. Start early to avoid the need to have a 'set text weekend' just before the exams.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN PAPERS 2 AND 3

- Look carefully at the passage the examiners have given you in order to identify it accurately.
- Answer comprehension questions accurately. If your answers are fuzzy, they may not get all the marks available.
- Always answer in full sentences.
- If you are asked to translate a few lines of the set text, get the translation word perfect. Examiners mark these 'seen' translations very strictly, and they are usually worth a lot of marks — so get them right.