

Revising A2 Greek

The Greek A2 exam consists of the following **two papers**:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|--------------------------|
| • Greek Verse | 2 hours | 50% of the final A2 mark |
| • Greek Prose | 2 hours | 50% of the final A2 mark |

SET TEXTS FOR GREEK VERSE

Euripides *Hippolytus* 266-361, 601-668, 1038-1101, 1173-1254

The rest of the play should be read in English.

SET TEXT FOR GREEK PROSE

Thucydides VII 75-86

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE LITERATURE QUESTIONS?

- 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.
- Read your translations and notes/commentaries very carefully. Remember, though, that your notes may not have all the 'right answers' on the passage that comes up in the exam. You will need to give a detailed response to some aspect (language, argument, characterisation) of the passage, but applying sound principles of literary criticism is as important as making the 'correct points'.
- Look carefully at past exam papers and mark schemes: you can work out what examiners are looking for, and what they give good marks for. You will find downloads on the OCR website at http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/classics/classical_greek/documents/index.html
- Practise answering context questions under timed conditions.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE VERSE UNSEEN?

- The passage will be taken from Sophocles (iambic trimeters).
- To prepare for this paper you need to concentrate on revising **vocabulary** and **grammar**. There is no prescribed vocabulary for A2, but it would certainly be a good idea to revise the AS vocabulary. This can be found on the OCR website at http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_10076_kd_l_gce_vocab.pdf
- For essential grammar, follow the [Greek Grammar](#) link. This page has been designed primarily for GCSE, and the information has been kept to a useful minimum. For a complete grammar, use the Oxford Greek Grammar. Copies are available from the Classics Room.
- The [Greek Sentence Structure](#) page has some basic advice on analysing sentences. Again, it is aimed at GCSE candidates. For more advanced syntax, North and Hillard is good.
- An online programme for testing A2 Greek vocabulary and grammar is available at <http://www.cambridgescp.com/page.php?p=ag^top^home> Click on one of the testers, and ask for the OCR AS test. There is no A2 tester available, but the AS testers are still worth using.
- As part of the verse unseen question, you will have to scan a few lines of hexameters. For help with this, follow the [Greek Scansion](#) link.
- The key to success is practice. If you need material just ask us in the Classics Department room.

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR THE PROSE COMPOSITION QUESTION?

- The passage will be in the style of Xenophon.
- Revise the most important **constructions** very carefully. This means going through North and Hillard, being reasonably selective.
- For a complete list of the required grammar and syntax, go to page 101 of http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_9611_kd_gce_spec.pdf
- Revise **prose vocabulary** from North and Hillard.
- Practise plenty of past papers, asking us for material if you need any. Remember that you are aiming to write clear and accurate Greek. A few golden rules apply here:
 - Try and keep your Greek simple: if it is simple, it is likely to be accurate
 - As far as possible, write Greek that sounds like real Greek.
 - Use a variety of constructions. For example, purpose can be expressed with $\iota\nu\alpha$ + subjunctive/optative or with $\omega\varsigma$ + future participle.