

Revising GCSE Classical Civilisation

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

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| • City Life in the Classical World | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |
| • Epic and Myth | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |
| • Community Life in the Classical World | 1 hour | 25% of the final mark |
| • Culture and Society in the Classical World | controlled assessment | 25% of the final mark |

CITY LIFE TOPIC: Rome

EPIC AND MYTH: Homer *Odyssey* 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12

COMMUNITY LIFE: Sparta

CULTURE AND SOCIETY: Virgil *The Aeneid*

HOW SHOULD YOU REVISE FOR PAPER 1, PAPER 2 AND PAPER 3?

- 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 the PDF document on the OCR website at http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/kd/ocr_9944_kd_spec.pdf. You will find a tick-list for all the topics you have covered on pages 9, 10 and 12.
- 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 a number of aspects of the prescribed topics. But your top priority is to revise your notes.

REMEMBER ...

- For each of the three written papers you have 1 hour, and in that time you must answer questions on **one** topic. For each topic, three context questions are set (each worth 15 marks) and you must choose **two**. Two essays are set (each worth 30): you must choose **one**.
- The timing works out at a mark a minute.

TIPS FOR ANSWERING CONTEXT QUESTIONS

- Choose **context questions** carefully. Read them thoroughly and choose those that you can answer confidently.
- If a question only requires a one word answer, put down one word. Otherwise write in full sentences.

TIPS FOR WRITING ESSAYS

- Each of the **essays** has 11 marks for use of evidence, 8 marks for understanding of evidence and 11 marks for evaluation of evidence.
- 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.
- 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: **statement example explanation**.