



## Classical Greek A Level

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**Entry Requirement: Grade 7 in Greek**

**Awarding Body: OCR**

Students wanting to study Greek at A Level should have at least a grade 7 in GCSE Greek in order to take this subject in the Sixth Form.

### Course Outline

Greek A Level builds on the skills and linguistic knowledge acquired at GCSE. Students are examined on their ability to translate from Greek into English and their understanding and appreciation of selected works of literature read in the original language. Popular authors studied include Herodotus, Thucydides, Sophocles, and Euripides. Reading is designed to develop linguistic understanding, a knowledge of myth, history and culture and an appreciation of literary style. There is an option of translation from English into Greek.

Candidates sit the four units of the course at the end of Year 13. Assessment is by written examination. The language papers examine linguistic ability through unseen translation (Language 01 – 100 marks) and comprehension or prose composition (Language 02 – 50 marks). The literature papers test critical thinking and essay writing skills. One 2 hr paper focuses on prose literature (03 – 75 marks) and the other on verse literature (04 – 75 marks).

### Literature

Students study between two and four authors in the original Greek, studying both verse and prose texts, either continuing with the same texts in both Year 12 and Year 13 or changing to new texts. Prose texts usually feature a selection from a work of history such as:

- Herodotus' *Histories*, an account of the Persian invasions of Greece in the 5th century BCE.
- Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, an account of the war between Athens and Sparta in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE.

The verse literature studied is usually a piece of 5<sup>th</sup> century Attic drama, either tragedy or comedy. Recent texts have included:

- Aristophanes' *Clouds*, a satire on the rising philosophical movement of the Sophists and the life of Socrates.
- Sophocles' *Ajax*, a tragic account of Ajax's death in the final part of the Trojan War.

### Who should I contact for more information?

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