

Ted Wragg Trust Curriculum Map: Classics

Subject sentence – What do we do?

Livy reminds us that "The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind... for in that record you can find both examples and warnings." In Classical Civilisation, pupils delve into the stories and myths of ancient Greece and Rome — tales of heroes, gods, and empires that reveal the values, fears, and aspirations of the ancient world. Through studying literature, art, philosophy, and politics, pupils learn how these myths shaped societies and continue to influence the way we think, create, and understand humanity today.

How does Classics equip students with powerful knowledge?

Classics equips students with powerful knowledge by connecting them to the foundations of modern society through the study of ancient Greece and Rome. Through exploring their rich history and captivating myths, students gain insight into how ancient ideas, stories, and events have shaped modern culture, beliefs, and values, deepening their understanding of the human experience across time.

What skills and cultural capital do students gain in Classics?

Classics helps students build important skills like critical thinking, communication, and analysis. By learning about ancient history, myths, and cultures, they gain a deeper understanding of where many modern ideas come from. This gives them valuable cultural knowledge and a wider view of the world around them.

How do we support literacy in Classics?

We support literacy in Classics by helping students develop clear, confident writing and strong reading skills. Lessons focus on using subject-specific vocabulary, analysing historical and mythological texts, and writing structured, well-reasoned responses. Live marking is used to give instant feedback, allowing students to improve their spelling, grammar, and expression in real time, building accuracy and confidence in their written work.

How is the Classics curriculum designed?

The Classics curriculum is designed in termly cycles to ensure clear progression and depth of learning. Each cycle builds knowledge and skills through structured study of ancient history, culture, and myth. In Year 9, students focus entirely on Paper 1 content, while Year 10 is dedicated to Paper 2 content, allowing for a complete year of revision in year 11.

How do you use spaced practice / retrieval practice?

We use spaced and retrieval practice regularly in Classics to strengthen long-term knowledge. This is built into lesson starters, where students recall key information from previous topics, and through regular knowledge tests that reinforce learning over time. In Year 11, retrieval practice becomes central to lessons as students focus on revision, consistently revisiting and applying their knowledge to prepare confidently for exams.

What content do you cover and how is this delivered over time?

In Classics, we cover all components of the OCR Classical Civilisation GCSE. In Year 1, students study Myth and Religion, exploring the beliefs, stories, and rituals of ancient Greece and Rome. In Year 2, the focus is on Roman City Life, examining daily life, culture, and society in the ancient world. The content is delivered through carefully sequenced lessons that build knowledge and understanding over time, allowing students to make clear connections between topics and develop strong analytical and evaluative skills.

What content do you not cover (that others might) and why?

Other schools may choose to teach different OCR Classical Civilisation components, such as War and Warfare or The Homeric World. However, we focus on Roman City Life because it aligns with our teacher's specialist expertise, allowing for deeper knowledge, engaging lessons, and enriched understanding of Roman culture and society.

How do you sequence the curriculum so that new knowledge and skills builds on what has been

The Classics curriculum is carefully sequenced through termly cycles, allowing knowledge and skills to build progressively over time. Each cycle revisits key themes through consistent retrieval practice, helping students strengthen and connect their understanding. Students regularly complete 15-mark exam questions to bring together different areas of knowledge and develop analytical writing skills. This structured approach is reinforced through mock exams and focused Year 11 revision, ensuring students consolidate their learning and are well prepared for final assessments.



CYCLE 2

Revision of Year 2 – Revision of Year 10 content with an emphasis on exam practice and skills.

CYCLE 3

Exams
Final revision and then exams.
Paper 1 – Myth and Religion
Paper 2 – Roman City Life

11

CYCLE 1

Revision of Year 1 – Revising Year 9 content with an emphasis on exam practice and skills.

CYCLE 2

Foundation stories – Explore and evaluate the heroism of Heracles and Theseus as well as explore the other foundation stories of Greece and Rome including the battle of Troy and Romulus and Remus.

CYCLE 3

Myths and Symbols of power/ The Underworld/Festivals - Analyse the symbols of power in ancient Rome and Greece. Explore ancient festivals and stories of the Underworld including the Hymn to Demeter and Orpheus and Eurydice.

10

CYCLE 1

Religion – Exploring the Greek and Roman gods, ancient temples like the Parthenon and Pantheon, sacrifice, and the role of officials in ancient religious life.

9



Key concepts



Global breadth



Breadth of diversity



Exposure to Historical Scholarship



Retrieval and recall



Using sources and interpretation



Change and continuity



Cause and consequence



Significance

Potential Future careers in Classics

Researcher, archivist, museum officer/curator, conservation officer, journalist, teacher, police officer, lawyer, solicitor, political jobs, archaeologist



"The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see." Livy History of