

# Leaving Cert Classical Studies



## **CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND - TEACHERS**

The Leaving Cert Classical Studies course content, structure,  
and benefits.

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# Course Content

## Ancient Epic



Read Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*: learn about the infamous epic heroes' adventures across the ancient Mediterranean. The stories of their battles with monsters, journeys to the Underworld, and love affairs with queens, goddesses and sorceresses.

## Greek Drama & Roman Spectacle



Read (or act) the dramatic tragedies of Ancient Greece – Medea who killed her children or King Oedipus who married his mother! Among other plays. Then compare the conventions of Greek drama to the spectacle of the Roman Colosseum – the gladiators, the chariot races, the glory!

## Julius Caesar & Alexander the Great



Learn about Julius Caesar, the Roman dictator, or Alexander the Great of Macedon. Both conquered. Both had inexhaustible power. Both were involved in bloody conspiracies. Read their lives and reflect on why men of such brutal political legacies are still relevant to the politics of today.

## Gods & Mortals



Learn about the Greek and Roman gods, their stories, and examine their temples. Study the Roman and Greek mysterious religious practices. Deliberate on what the Romans and Greeks thought about death, fate, and what constituted a *good life*.

# Learning & Assessment

## Learning Approach

Classical Studies is the study of *everything* in the Ancient Roman and Greek world. It is interdisciplinary: combining history, literature, art mythology, archaeology, and philosophy. Students learn to read and evaluate ancient texts (in translation), to analyse ancient artefacts, buildings, and art, and to evaluate or argue points in philosophy.

## Skills

The skills you develop are wide-ranging and varied. Students practice and develop their literacy through reading and writing, their ability to analyse, critique, and argue through examining visual and written sources. They enhance their ability to think creatively and abstractly about the world we live in and concepts such as *leadership and power, fate and destiny, the 'good' life and happiness, and mortality and divinity*.

## Assessment

80% of the course is assessed in a final examination. 50% of the exam is assessed on 2 essay questions; the other 50% is for 2 stimulus questions (students are provided with visual and written sources to answer questions on).

20% of the course is assessed by a Research Study. This takes the form of a report on your own investigation and evaluation of a particular topic linked to the specification.

# Why Classics?

## What will Classics do for you?



**Classics is fun!** It is one of the most engaging subjects you can study. If you have an interest in Ancient Rome and Greece, you will enjoy this subject.

**Classics is great for learning.** When you are engaged in class, you will learn more from this subject. If Rome and Greece interest you, you will learn many fascinating things and acquire many transferable skills. This can be a great help in other subjects - especially English!



**Classics is employable.** Classics leads to a variety of careers: either in business, law, government, teaching, writing, journalism, museum curatorship, library work, game development, etc.

# FAQ

## Is it hard?

It is as easy or hard as any other subject. If you are drawn to the worlds of Greece and Rome, you will love this subject!

## Will I like it?

Most do. It is a very popular subject with those who take it.

## Do you have to have taken it for Junior Cycle?

No. It is designed so anyone – no matter their prior knowledge – can take the subject.

## Can anyone study it and be good at it?

Yes. There is something for everybody – history, fantastic stories and compelling characters... You will find your special interest and excel. That's why it's so popular.

## Is Classics like History?

It is very much historical, but there is a lot of extra focus on literature and visual sources from art and archaeology. So, it is a great companion with both History and English!

## Is there a lot of reading and writing?

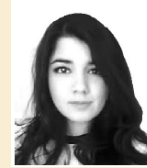
The amount of writing is very similar to other subjects – but in fact less than History and English. There is a good bit of reading, but they are the best stories. So, it's worth it.

## What will I get out of it?

CAO points, life skills, a unique interest, and a new perspective on life, as well as much more

# Past Pupil Testimonials

## Bina Task, LLB (Law), NUIM



*My background in Classical Studies is the first thing I am asked about in job interviews. In addition to it being the class I most looked forward to every week, Classics has given me better legal skills by teaching me to critically analyse complex materials.*

## Ben Handrick, BA (Hons) (Classics & Film Studies), UCD



*Maybe it's because I come from a creative family but when I found Classical Studies, it quickly became my favourite subject. It's a subject that provides escapism and inspires thought which is so relevant given the turbulent times we live in. I'm looking forward to continuing to learn more and combining it with one of my other passion - film.*

## Roosa Hafeez, BSc (Pharmaceutical Healthcare), DIT (Pegasus Prize Winner, 2021)



*While I am studying Pharma now, I will never be as impacted spiritually as I have been by studying Classics. It had an avalanche effect on me in so many ways and it's the only subject in my opinion that can be applied to life after secondary school.*

## Oscar McHale, BA (Hons) (Latin; Greek & Roman Civilization), UCD



*A classical education has benefited me greatly. It has equipped me with practical research and analytical skills which have aided me in pursuing further studies outside of my degree subjects. It has given me a deeper and far greater appreciation for the modern literary tradition and the importance of art and literature in human affairs.*

## About CAI-T

The Classical Association of Ireland – Teachers is the subject association of the Classics subjects in Irish secondary schools. These subjects include Latin, Ancient Greek, and Classical Studies. These cover everything from the Ancient Civilizations of Greece and Rome, from their languages to their history and literature.

- Our aim is to help teachers teach these subjects with supportive resources, CPD events, and community outreach.
- We also aim to support students in their education in these subjects through a range of fun and educational events, like our Ides of March quiz, Leaving Cert Lectures, and the Young Classicist Awards.
- We also help schools to implement these subjects into their curriculum through a range of supports. And we help any students wishing to find tuition in Classics as an extra subject outside of school.
- CAI-T is also closely linked to other interested groups such as: The Classical Association of Ireland (CAI), the Classical Association of Northern Ireland (CANI), and Access Classics, UCD.

## Contact Us

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**Classical Association of Ireland - Teachers**