



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination

Classical Studies

Research Study Report
Brief

Higher and Ordinary levels
100 marks

Information for candidates, teachers and schools

A new specification for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies was introduced in September 2021 and will be examined for the first time in 2023. The assessment of Leaving Certificate, Classical Studies comprises of two elements: (1) A final written examination, and (2) a Research Study Report. The Research Study Report is worth 100 marks, which is 20% of the overall marks for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies. The remaining 400 marks (80%) are for the final examination.

A brief for the Research Study Report will issue annually from the State Examinations Commission early in the second term of fifth year. This brief is common to Higher and Ordinary levels. All candidates (Higher and Ordinary level) are required to complete and submit a Research Study Report for assessment in line with this brief.

The Research Study Report must be completed and submitted to the teachers by 20th January, 2023. Schools will subsequently submit the reports to the Commission for assessment. Further information will issue in due course, in relation to the submission of the report to the State Examinations Commission via the candidate portal.

The report must be presented in the digital booklet provided by the State Examinations Commission which will be available to download at www.examinations.ie. Candidates are not required to nominate their examination level at the time of the submission of their report.

The school authority should securely retain a digital copy of each candidate's Research Study Report until after the results have issued and all appeal processes have been completed. This includes the reports of candidates who have not appealed.

The Research Study Report must be completed under the supervision of the class teacher, in accordance with the conditions set down by the State Examinations Commission, as outlined in Circulars S69 04 and S68 08, available at www.examinations.ie. The report must be the candidate's own individual work – authenticated by the candidate, the teacher and the school management authorities. Where a report cannot be authenticated as the candidate's own work, it will not be accepted for assessment. This will result in the forfeit of the marks associated with this examination component.

Any incidence of suspected copying, improper assistance from another party, plagiarism or procurement of work prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated. These actions are breaches of examination rules and attract the penalties described in the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools. The penalties include: loss of the marks for the Research Study, loss of the subject, loss of the entire examination in all subjects, or being debarred from the Certificate Examinations in subsequent years. There may be serious consequences for any persons who provide candidates with inappropriate assistance, as this is an offence under the Education Act 1998.

Instructions for candidates

You must complete the Research Study Report based on one of the topics outlined in this document. Given that the same project brief applies to Higher and Ordinary level, you do not have to make a final decision on the level that you are taking when submitting your report. The State Examinations Commission will grade your project in line with the standards that apply to the level at which you take the final examinations.

Your report must not exceed 1700 words (excluding references, diagrams etc.). Penalties may apply if you exceed the total word count. Further information relating to word count will be provided in the digital booklet. All secondary sources used (books, journals, websites etc.) must be acknowledged in the report. If you include material copied directly from the internet or from other sources, and do not identify it clearly as such, this will be regarded as plagiarism.

This assessment component requires candidates to investigate, evaluate and report on a focused aspect of a topic from the ancient Greek or Roman world.

As identified in the specification, the topics in this brief relate to the following key areas:

Material culture

Literature

History

Thought and Ideas.

The Research Study Report requires candidates to demonstrate that they can:

- Research and process information that is relevant and meaningful to understanding or expanding on a chosen topic
- Synthesise and evaluate information in order to apply concepts connected to Classical Studies and make informed judgements.

Candidates must select **one** of the four topics in the **Prescribed Research Topics 2023** section below as the focus for their research and report.

Your report must be completed using the digital completion booklet provided by the State Examinations Commission which will be available for download at www.examinations.ie. Your report may include maps, graphs, diagrams, photographs or other images. These must be included within the relevant sections of the booklet. Examiners will mark the digital version of the booklet only and not any other material attached or enclosed. You may not include any videos in the report and the total number of images should be no more than twenty. The total file size of your digital report including all embedded images must not exceed 100 MB.

While you can seek advice from your teacher and others in guiding you, you must carry out your work independently of other candidates and the report must be your own individual work – authenticated by yourself, your teacher and by your school management authority.

Authentication is an important part of how the State Examinations Commission ensures fairness to everybody in the assessment of coursework.

Because you are completing both the research and the report under teacher supervision, your teacher is able to guarantee to us that it is your own work, and that nobody gave you any inappropriate help. If you include work that was not supervised by your teacher, then they cannot authenticate it.

The State Examinations Commission cannot accept work for assessment if your teacher cannot authenticate it, so you will forfeit the marks for the project work. Note also that we cannot give partial marks for 'partially authenticated' work. That is, unless *all* of your work can be authenticated by your teacher, we cannot accept *any* of it for marking.

Any case of suspected copying, plagiarism, improper assistance, or procurement of work prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated.

Responsibility for complying with examination requirements rests with you, the candidate. If the requirements are not followed, your teacher and school will have no choice but to bring this to the attention of the State Examinations Commission.

When your work is marked, assessment criteria will be applied, and marks will be allocated to the various sections of the report as outlined below in the *Report Structure and Mark Allocations* section of this document.

Prescribed Research Topics 2023

Submit a Research Study Report based on **one** of the following topics.

Material Culture:

Present a Research Study Report on the ways in which physical and visual evidence from the ancient world can help us to better understand the staging of Roman gladiatorial games.

Literature:

Present a Research Study Report on the portrayal of female characters (excluding goddesses) in Greek and / or Roman epic poetry.

History:

Present a Research Study Report on key political events which followed the death of either Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar. Candidates must limit their research to the twenty-five year period after the death of their chosen historical figure, although they may focus on a much shorter period of time if they wish.

Thought and Ideas:

Present a Research Study Report on the work of any Greek or Roman Stoic philosopher and assess the importance of their contribution to the Stoic school of philosophy.

Report Structure and Marks Allocations

The report will consist of four sections:

Section A: Rationale and Approach

The candidate will present a rationale for the selection of the chosen subject. This section should include considerations such as:

- What research question(s) the candidate intends to answer
- The aims of the Research Study Report
- The approach the candidate intends to take to the research process.

Section B: Extended Essay

The candidate will present an extended essay, clearly outlining the findings of the research undertaken, in a logically-argued and coherently-expressed series of paragraphs. The Extended Essay should have a title and clear aims.

Candidates may provide maps, diagrams, photographs, images etc. to help support or illustrate some aspect(s) of their report as appropriate and relevant. Candidates should endeavour to demonstrate a high degree of coherence of content, approach and structure in presenting their research findings.

To obtain very high marks candidates will need to display a highly developed knowledge and understanding of the subject chosen for study and a sophisticated awareness of the broader context of the subject chosen in the history of the classical world. A compelling case should be made for the significance of the subject chosen.

Section C: Review and Reflection

The candidate will present a review of the process undertaken, outlining such considerations as:

- The difficulties encountered during the research process
- The strengths and weaknesses of the source and reference material consulted
- The lessons the candidate has learned that can be applied to future research on the ancient world.

Section D: References

Candidates must provide full references for all sources used in the report. This section will not attract a separate mark. Any deficiencies in referencing will be taken account of when marking the relevant section of the report.

Assessment:

The weighting and marks for each section will be as follows:			
Section A	Rationale and Approach	10%	10 marks
Section B	Extended Essay	60%	60 marks
Section C	Review and Reflection	10%	10 marks
	Overall Coherence	20%	20 marks