

Frequently Asked Questions

SDC: Classical Greek

1. What are the reasons for designing and teaching your own Classical Greek course in place of the GCSE?

We have the opportunity to offer a Classical Greek course that represents better preparation for study in the sixth form, that excites pupils and develops their own skillset, and intentionally develops complex problem-solving, analytical writing and self-regulation. Pupils will access a wider variety of Classical texts in their historical and political context, supporting a broader appreciation of the Classical World.

2. Why do you feel SDC: Classical Greek is superior to the current GCSE?

While maintaining a high level of language skills in order to keep the path open to A-level, IB and beyond, we want to enable pupils to study a broader range of texts in a different way to the current GCSE course by way of developing a higher-level of analytical skills. This will enable them to read a wider variety of texts in different genres and in a more sophisticated manner. This will better place them for sixth form study (in a variety of subjects) and beyond.

3. Who is this course designed for and what level of linguistic background do they need?

This course is designed for anyone who has a basic grounding in Classical Greek Language.

4. How will pupils be assessed and will Grades 9 – 1 still be awarded?

There are three components to this course – Language, Literature, and the Thematic Study (Culture through Literature). The four possible outcomes for this SDC course are Complete, Pass, Merit, or Distinction. We anticipate the percentage Distinction/Merit in summer 2027 being broadly equivalent to recent outcomes in the GCSE.

5. Will universities recognise this course?

UCAS have confirmed that SDC: Classical Greek will formally be an option for a pupil to select on any UCAS application they submit. Offers for university degree courses would be based on IB/A level predicted grades.

6. How will the standard compare to the current GCSE?

SDC: Classical Greek will mirror the overall standard of the current GCSE. It must be noted, however, that Bradfield's own Greek course will focus more on the skills required to study a wider range of Greek literature and in greater depth. The change to open book set text testing will allow for greater depth of analysis and less of a focus on content learning. SDC: Classical Greek will be allocated exactly the same curriculum time as the current GCSE Greek. The course has been ratified by Council's Education Committee on behalf of the school governing body, and links have been established with other leading independent schools by way of providing external moderation and standardisation.

7. Who will teach the course and have they been trained? To what extent have the different components been trialled?

The same Classical Greek teachers currently delivering the GCSE will teach on the SDC: Classical Greek course. The course work element is modelled on the current IB Internal Assessment, which has been taught in the department for the last ten years. The whole department have fully engaged with this newly designed course since its inception and so understand the course principles and how they will manifest in classrooms. Furthermore, the College has established mutual relationship other Classics Departments across a number of Independent Schools, who have agreed to collaborate on assessment criteria and standardisation.

8. What type of study resource will be available (study guides, textbooks, past papers)?

Given the course elements which we are keeping from the current GCSE, particularly the language element, many of the resources will remain relevant. Those resources will be a mix of physical copy and digital with the latter collated in pupils' One Note. By necessity, many of the literature resources will be new, although many will have appeared on previous GCSE Greek specifications. Overall, pupils and parents should be reassured that a library of resources that support skills development and challenge will be available to all pupils and for each component.