

Ancient History GCSE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will I learn on this course?

A: Please refer to the Options booklet for further information.

Our GCSE Ancient History qualification provides a romp through some of the most exciting parts of Roman and Greek history, focusing on the key individuals and events that helped shape the ancient world. Students will have the chance to look at defining characters from the ancient world such as Alexander the Great and Hannibal, defining events including the Battle of Thermopylae, the foundation of Rome and the creation of democracy. Students will study two period studies, giving students the opportunity to study how the Persian Empire grew from a small kingdom in the Iranian plateau to become the world's first super power. Students will also study the early beginnings of the Rome from Romulus and Remus through to the beginning of the Roman Republic. Linked to each of these period studies are depth studies. These provide students with a well-rounded understanding of the ancient world.

1. **Persian period study Rise of Achaemenid Empire:** This period study focuses on the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great, Cambyses II, Darius I and Xerxes I. Students develop their understanding of the unfolding narrative of substantial developments and issues associated with this period.
2. **Greek depth study: Alexander the Great, 356 – 323 BC:** This depth study covers similar geographical areas to the period study but allows learners to understand the Macedonian invasion, conquest of the Persian Empire and advance as far as India. The events covered in this depth study allow learners to study some of the events associated with the end of the Achaemenid Empire, which began under Cyrus the Great
3. **Roman period study: Rome: Kingship to Republic, 753 – 440 BC:** This longer period study focuses on the kings of Rome and the early Roman Republic, with an emphasis on the most interesting events and characters.
4. **Roman depth study: Hannibal and the 2nd Punic War, 218 – 201 BC:** This depth study enables learners to understand the complex factors that allowed Hannibal to invade Rome and defeat its army, but after 17 years forced Hannibal to leave Italy to defend Carthage from a Roman invasion. It provides learners with the opportunity to explore the political, military, economic, social and religious factors that affected the course of the Second Punic War.

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: Students will follow the OCR Ancient History GCSE (9-1) course.

Students will be assessed through two examinations, weighted at 50% each and requiring students to answer questions from their own knowledge and in response to source material. Each exam will be 1 hour and 45 minutes in length.

Q: What workbook would be suitable for Ancient History?

There are a wide range of support materials available via the CATalogue. These include a bespoke revision guides, podcasts, all lesson materials and further reading. There is no need to purchase any additional workbooks, but the History department will recommend revision guides that can be optionally purchased from school.