



Classical Studies at Dalkeith High School

Pathways from S5 and beyond

Introduction

For generations a classical education was considered a privilege for the few, not the many, but now its revival in primary and secondary state schools is well underway. There is increasing evidence that the study of classical subjects helps to:

- **raise pupils' aspirations and achievement.** Widening access to classical subjects can help to break the link between educational opportunity and disadvantage, giving pupils the confidence to progress to higher education.
- **encourage cultural insight and awareness,** offering pupils new perspectives on contemporary issues.



The Higher Classical Studies course requires candidates to study the religious, political, social, moral and cultural values and practices of the city state of Athens and Rome. Some of the areas covered in the course cover: the development of Athenian democracy and what it meant to be a citizen; the Athenian legal system; the social position of women; attitudes towards and the use of slaves in society; and the rise and nature of the Athenian empire. Complementary topics are examined in the Roman section of the course and a final area requires candidates to explore universal themes such as leadership, conflict, fate and free will, heroism, and the role of women through the studying of texts such as *Oedipus the King* and *The Antigone*.

Why Study Classics?

The course emphasises the development and application of skills. The focus on evaluating sources and understanding and analysing classical literature, develops candidates' knowledge of classical societies, and develops their thinking skills and skills in literacy. Investigative and critical-thinking activities give candidates opportunities to gain important experience in contributing to group work and working on their own.

The course is appropriate for a wide range of candidates, from those who wish to achieve a greater understanding of the classical world and its relevance to modern society, to candidates who wish to progress to more specialised training or further education or employment.

It can lead to future study and personal enrichment in many diverse areas of culture and society, and provides a point of departure for other work, for example literary studies, classical languages, teaching, archaeology, law, journalism, politics and government, medieval studies, modern languages and European studies.