



ANN ROINN OIDEACHAIS

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

**CLASSICAL
STUDIES
SYLLABUS**

(ORDINARY AND HIGHER LEVELS)

CLASSICAL STUDIES

Ordinary and Higher Level Courses

The general aim of these courses is to pursue the aims of the Junior Certificate Course at a level appropriate to the needs of senior post-primary pupils. Teachers are advised to note the introduction to the Junior Certificate Course in Classical Studies. A Classics library should be built up gradually, while the resources of local libraries ought to be utilised as far as possible.

A memorandum containing additional notes on the treatment of topics in the syllabus, together with booklists etc may be obtained from the Department of Education and Science.

The fundamental unit of each course is the topic. Teachers are referred to the Junior Certificate Course, Section III: Notes for the guidance of teachers, I, where advice on the treatment of topics is offered.

Ten topics, common to both courses, are prescribed for examination. These topics are arranged in three groups as follows:-

Group I:	Topics (1-4):
Group II:	Topics (5-7):
Group III:	Topics (8-10)

Candidates are required to answer questions on four topics in the examination, taking at least one topic from each group.

GROUP I:

Topic 1. Athens at War.

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: The Peloponnesian War, (Thucydides), Penguin Classics, the following sections:-

- Book 1: Chs. 1-23; 31-55; 66-88; 139-146
- Book 2: Chs. 1-27; 31: 34-65; 70-78
- Book 3: Chs. 1-28; 36-50; 52-68;.
- Book 4: Chs. 2-23; 26-41; 78-101; 117-118
- Book 5: Chs. 2-26; 43; 63-75; 84-116
- Book 6: Chs. 6; 8-32; 42-53; 60-73; 88-93; 96-104
- Book 7: Chs. 1-8; 10-19; 21-25; 27-28; 36-56; 59-87

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course with the addition of the following:-

- Book 8: Chs. 1-2; 37; 47-49; 53-54; 65-77; 81-86; 89-97; 104-106

The major aim of this topic is to examine the course of the Peloponnesian War and to understand its effect on Athenian society and politics as recorded by Thucydides. Events in the war which seriously affect life in the city e.g. the Plague and the Sicilian Expedition, should be given a special emphasis. Particular attention should be paid to Thucydides as a historian.

Topic 2. Alexander the Great.

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: The Campaigns of Alexander (Arrian), Penguin Classics).

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of the Life of Alexander, contained in the Age of Alexander (Plutarch), Penguin Classics.

The major aim of this topic is a study of the character and achievements of Alexander as portrayed by his biographers. Some appreciation of the following will also be expected: earlier Greek contacts with the Persian Empire; the special nature of Macedonian society; the Macedonian war-machine; the subsequent impact of Alexander's empire.

Topic 3: Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic.

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: (i) Fall of the Roman Republic (Plutarch), Penguin Classics (the lives of Pompey, Caesar and Cicero only); (ii) Latin Literature, An Anthology (edited by Michael Grant), Penguin Classics, the following sections: Cicero (all the selections); Catullus, the following poems: Love and Harsh Words; Evening with Licinius; The Effects of Love; Consolation; The Same; At a Brother's Grave; Wine; Happiness; To Cicero; Love and Hatred; A Prayer; Attis in Exile; Caesar (all the selections); Sallust (all the selections).

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of Lactor 7, "Roman Politics", available from Lactor Secretary, K. R. Hughes, 17 Belgravia Mews, Palace Road, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2LP (Tel/Fax 01815497389).

The major aim of this topic is a study of the literary, intellectual and political atmosphere of the Late Republic as reflected in key written sources for the period.

Topic 4: Roman Historians

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: (i) The Annals of Imperial Rome (Tacitus), Penguin Classics, pages 31 to 227 (i.e. the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius); (ii) The Twelve Caesars (Suetonius), Penguin Classics (the lives of Augustus and Tiberius only).

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of (i) the remainder of the Annals of Imperial Rome (Tacitus): the lives of Claudius and Nero in the Twelve Caesars (Suctonius): (iii) Lactor 8, “Inscriptions of the Roman Empire. A.D. 14-117”, (Numbers 1 to 48 only), available from L.A.C.T. Publications (see address under Topic 3).

The major aim of this topic is to gain an understanding of the early principate through an examination and comparison of two key ancient historical sources. The characters of the various emperors as they appear in the sources should be carefully studied. Lactor 8 should be studied for the inscriptional, non-literary evidence which it provides for the reigns of the emperors to be examined.

GROUP II:

Topic 5. Greek Drama

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: (i) King Oedipus (Sophocles). Penguin Classics; (ii) Medea (Euripides). Penguin Classics.

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of the following: (i) Prometheus Bound (Aeschylus). Penguin Classics: (ii) The Frogs (Aristophanes), Penguin Classics.

The major aim in this topic is to gain an appreciation of the achievement of the major Greek dramatists. A detailed knowledge of the plays is not required. Some knowledge of the following will be expected: an appreciation of the plays in their ancient context, such as their function in Athenian society; the role of the poet in Athens; the tragedians' reliance on Greek myth and legend; the conditions of performance; the Greek concept of the tragic hero; the function of the chorus; the *deus ex machine*; the role of the comic playwright in society.

Topic 6. Ancient Epic

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: (i) The Odyssey (Homer), Penguin Classics: (ii) The Aeneid, (Virgil) Books 1 to 6. Penguin Classics.

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary course, with the addition of (i) the remainder of the Aeneid; (ii) The Tain (translated by Thomas Kinsella), Oxford Paperbacks.

At Ordinary Level the key text for study is the Odyssey and a detailed knowledge of the story and of its major characters will be expected. Candidates should have some appreciation of the more obvious features of Homer's style and method which come across in translation, such as his use of flashbacks and similes. The Aeneid is to be read principally for comparative purposes e.g. the comparison of the voyages of Odysseus and Aeneas and the contrast between the two Underworlds depicted.

At Higher Level a detailed knowledge of both Odyssey and Aeneid is expected, as well as ability to compare the two works. There should be some understanding of the structure of the two works and an appreciation of the contrasting societies in which the works were written. An elementary knowledge of the nature of primary epic and of Virgil's method in handling this form of writing is required. Virgil's motives for writing the Aeneid should be treated. The Tain is to be read principally for comparative purposes, although some knowledge of content may be required.

Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Period

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: Latin Literature, An Anthology (edited by Michael Grant), Penguin Classics, the following selections:- Virgil: (a) The Eclogues: The Song of Silenus, and The Birth of the Saviour: (b) The Georgics: Orpheus and Eurydice, and A Farmer's Calendar: (c) The Aeneid: The Underworld, and Hercules and Cacus Horace: (a) Odes and Epodes: Gather Ye Rosebuds, We all Must Die, Cease To Mourn: (b) The Satires and Epistles: The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse, and The Bore. Livy: Livy's Preface, The Sabine Women, Class Warfare. Propertius: Two Requests, Susceptibility, Gone, Gone to Clitumnus, Cynthia is Dead, Cynthia. Ovid Baucis and Philemon.

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of the following selections from Latin Literature, An Anthology: Virgil, The Georgics: Rustic Happiness. Horace: (a) Odes and Epodes: Enjoy The Present Hour. A Quiet Life, Rustic Joys, The Good Man Fears Nothing, Enjoy Your Possessions While They Are Yours, Ode To Spring: (b) The Satires and Epistles: The Journey To Brundisium. Livy: Horatius On The Bridge. The Romans Defeated By Hannibal At Cannae, The Defeat of Hannibal. Propertius: Love and Peace, The God of Love. Ovid: Elegiac Poems: Ovid's Misery in Exile, Myself, Advice To Women, The Art Of Love, Unfair.

The major aim of this topic is a study of the literary, social and political atmosphere of the Augustan period as reflected in the writings of the principal authors of the period. A detailed knowledge of the prescribed pieces is not required. Some knowledge of the historical background to the period and of the influence of patronage in Rome at this time will be necessary.

GROUP III:

Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society.

The prescribed text for the Ordinary and Higher Course is A Handbook of Greek Art (G. M. A. Richter), Phaidon Paperback.

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: Chapters 1, 2, (i.e. to page 184).

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: Chapters 1, 2, 3, I I (to page 356 only).

The aim of this topic is to gain a good understanding of certain aspects of representative examples of Greek Art and architecture based on a general

understanding of the techniques and development of the art forms studied. The role of these art forms in the everyday life of the people should be appreciated.

Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: a Study of Socrates and Plato.

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: The Republic (Plato), Penguin Classics, the following sections:

The Introduction (pages 61 to 66): First Principles of Social Organisation (pages 116 to 122). Civilized society (pages 122 to 125): Qualities Required in The Guardians (pages 126 to 128): Secondary or Literary Education (pages 129 to 149): Musical Requirements (pages 158 to 161): Summary (pages 161 to 163): Physical Education (pages 166 to 182): The Rulers' and auxiliaries' Way of Life (pages 182 to 187): Final Provisions For Unity (Pages 187 to 195): Justice in The State (pages 196 to 206): The Rulers' and Auxiliaries' Way of Life (pages 182 to 187): Final Provisions For Unity (pages 187 to 195): Justice in The State (pages 196 to 206): The Status of Women (pages 225 to 236): The Ideal and the Actual (pages 260 to 263). The Qualities of Character Required in the Philosopher (pages 276 to 280): The Qualities of Character Required in the Philosopher (pages 276 to 280): The Prejudice Against Philosophy (pages 281 to 292): The Simile of the Cave (pages 317 to 325): Selection and Curriculum (pages 347 to 355).

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of the following: (i) Letters VII and VIII (Plato). Penguin Classics: (ii) The Life of Dion, available in The Age of Alexander (Plutarch), Penguin Classics.

The major text for study at both levels is the Republic. The aim of this topic is an examination of Plato's main objectives for a state.

The texts for study on the Higher Course are meant to provide a study of the practical application of Plato's theoretical ideas in the city of Syracuse.

Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture.

Ordinary Level Prescribed Matter: (i) Roman Art and Architecture (Mortimer Wheeler). Thames and Hudson, the following pages: 7 to 24, 89 to 205: (ii) Visual Publications Roman Art Series of filmstrips, with accompanying handbook for teachers. Following are the titles of these filmstrips; (a) City and Temple; (b) Arch and Theatre; (c) Structures; (d) Pompeii; (e) Sculpture, Painting and Mosaic. (Available from Visual Publications, The Green, Northleach. Cheltenham. Glos. GL54 3EX).

Higher Level Prescribed Matter: As for the Ordinary Course, with the addition of the remainder of Roman Art and Architecture (Mortimer Wheeler), except Chapter 6.

The aim of this topic is to carry out an examination of the Roman achievement in building, engineering, art, sculpture and mosaic.

