

**SEC SYLLABUS (2024)**

**CLASSICAL CULTURE AND CIVILISATION**

**SEC 07**

***SYLLABUS***

**Classical Culture and Civilisation SEC 07  
Syllabus**

(Not available in September)

Paper I(2 hrs) + Paper II (2 hrs)

**Introduction**

The syllabus which is here presented has been designed to lead to a teaching syllabus and scheme of examination which will provide:

- (a) a system which differentiates on the basis of positive achievement rather than failure;
- (b) a system in which the lower grades represent a useful achievement in the subject;
- (c) a system which enables all candidates to gain grades according to their competence.

**Aims**

The aims of a course in Classical Culture and Civilisation leading to the award of a Secondary Education Certificate should be:

- (a) to offer insights into, and appreciation of, the culture and civilisation of Classical Greece and Rome;
- (b) to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

**Assessment Objectives**

The scheme of assessment will test:

- (a) candidates' knowledge of the history of Classical Greece and Rome;
- (b) candidates' familiarity with literary texts written during the period.

**Scheme of Assessment**

The examination will consist of two papers of two hours' duration each. Candidates have to answer in English.

Paper I (50% of the global mark): This paper is to be taken by all candidates. It will consist of two sections: one on Greek History and one on Roman History. Candidates are expected to answer two questions from each of them. The questions set will test factual knowledge of the subject areas.

Paper II (50% of the global mark): There will be two versions of this paper: Paper IIA and Paper IIB. Candidates are required to indicate on the registration form which Paper II they wish to sit for. No change in the choice of paper will be allowed after the registration period. Questions set in each of the two papers will range over the whole syllabus but the questions in Paper IIA will make greater demands on candidates than those in Paper I, while the questions in Paper IIB will be less demanding than those in Paper I.

**Results**

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIA may qualify for a grade within the range 1 to 5 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); the results of candidates who do not obtain a Grade 5 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIB may qualify for a grade not higher than 4 (i.e. grades 4, 5, 6, 7); the results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain Unclassified (U).

## Syllabus

Two Papers of Two Hours each will be set.

Paper I – History of the Classical World (Greece & Rome)

History of Greece - 6th to 4th. centuries BC.

**Topics:** Spartan and Athenian Constitutions, The Athenian Empire, An overview of the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars, the Rise of Macedon and Alexander the Great.

History of Rome - 509 B.C. to the reign of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

**Topics:** The Roman Republican Constitution, its achievements and its downfall, the Birth of an Empire, Augustus and the Julio-Claudians, the Rebirth of the Empire under the Flavians, the Five Good Emperors.

**(to answer 4 questions - 2 on Greece and 2 on Rome)**

*(each question carries 25 marks)*

The student can use any textbook of his choice but we recommend the following as Reference textbooks:

*History of Greece* - J.B. Bury

*History of Rome* - M.Cary & H.H.Scullard

Paper IIA/IIB - Special Topics

**Greek & Roman Literature** with particular emphasis on epic, drama and history and a choice of **one** topic from the following:

Either: **Daily Life in Ancient Rome** with special reference to: Society & Social Classes, Marriage, Woman and the Family, Education and Religion, Day's Routine: The Morning, Occupations, Shows and Spectacles.

or **Greek Mythology** with special reference to the main divinities and their relations and attributes.

**(to answer 4 questions - 2 from Literature and 2 from the topic studied)**

*(each question carries 25 marks)*

Suggested Reading: *Handbook of Latin Literature* by H.J. Rose (paperback)

*Handbook of Greek Literature* by H.J. Rose (paperback)

*Daily Life in Ancient Rome* by Carcopino

*Who's Who in Classical Mythology* - M.Grant & J.Hazel **or**

*Handbook of Greek Mythology* by H.J. Rose

Important reference textbooks:

*The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd.Ed) by S.Hornblower & A. Spawforth

*The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature* by Harvey