

CLASSICAL STUDIES

Annabel Holt**Melbourne Girls
Grammar School****Study Score = 50**

The thing I liked best about Classical Studies was... the focus upon texts rather than simply upon the events of history. I found that examining the ancient world through the prism of texts created by the writers and artists of the periods, whether they be plays, works of historiography, or architecture, gave us a good sense of the cultural climate during those periods, while also illuminating contemporary societal mindsets and values.

The best advice I can give students about Classical Studies is... know your texts as well as you possibly can. It is essential to fulfil this criterion, as the rest of the criteria stem directly from it, such as creating your argument and employing evidence in your writing. You can get to know your texts by reading and rereading, as well as by creating and refining notes on the ideas and techniques. Keep the criteria in mind while you are writing, and formulate strategies to 'tick all the boxes'.

The best advice I got from my Classical Studies teacher was... write as much as you can to practise! Once you are sufficiently familiar with your texts, you will realise there are only so many passages or variations of prompts that you can be assessed on. If you have written practices for the key ideas of the texts and internalised your ideas about the text, you will be prepared for any question.

One month before the final Classical Studies exam, I... made sure that I had rewritten my notes in the most succinct and refined form possible. I also combed through my texts to make sure that I had compiled all the evidence for each of the key ideas in the text. All the while, I was completing practice responses to the texts.

One week before the final Classical Studies exam, I... wrote practices that my teacher gave me feedback for, checked that I had completed essays or plans for every prompt, and made sure that I had covered every passage in my texts for Section A.

On Classical Studies exam day, I prepared myself by... looking over a few passages for Section A, and working out what I might say about them if I were asked about ideas and techniques. I also attempted some quick practice sentences just to warm up, but no extended writing.

After the Classical Studies exam, I... relaxed and watched a movie! It was not my last exam, but the break was a good chance to recharge some energy. I remember that my classmates and I were feeling generally happy about the exam, and we were pleased that we were not surprised by any of the questions.

The best exam advice I received was... to see the exam as an opportunity to show what you have learned and what you can do. It is not judgement day; everyone wants you to do well, including the examiners! It is wise to remember that the exam will not define you or your life, but that you have learnt a great deal during the year and these two hours in the exam room are the perfect time to show off.

I did not work a part-time job during Year 12 because... I had completed enough part-time work in previous years that I felt comfortable to focus entirely upon my schoolwork and general wellbeing during Year 12. However, I came across many Year 12 students who were very happy with their academic performance while maintaining their part-time jobs.

“ See the exam as an opportunity to show what you have learned and what you can do... ”