

FORMAT FOR REFERENCES TO CLASSICAL TEXTS

See also Degree programme handbook for Classics degrees, Section 44.2

- References to primary classical texts, whether in the text of your work, in footnotes or in the bibliography, should always be under the **original** (classical) **author's name** first (not the translator's or the editor's).
- *Titles of classical works, wherever they appear, must always be in italics!!*
- Your bibliography entry needs to include **both** of the following:
 - classical author's name and title of work
 - full details of the particular translation and/or edition used:
 - name of translator
 - full title of the particular translation/edition as this appears on book's title page. *As with all book titles, use italics!!*
 - publication details:
 - either place of publication, or publisher, or both;
 - date of publication

For the correct format, see 'Bibliography entries for primary texts', below.

- References to primary texts in the course of your work should simply give classical author's name and title of work plus information identifying the precise section/lines of the work referred to. You should make sure that you are using an edition that enables you to do this as precisely as possible.¹

Thus, e.g.:

- Tacitus, *Annals* 13.39.2 [i.e. Book 13, chapter 39, section 2] or Tacitus, *Annals* 13.39: not all translations will give you section numbers here but you should *always* make sure you are using an edition that gives you at least the chapter divisions (though see footnote 1, below).
- Homer, *Iliad* 22.131–135 [i.e. Book 22 lines 131 to 135]
- Euripides, *Trojan Women* 346–370
- Horace, *Odes* 3.2.1-4 [i.e. *Odes* Book 3 poem 2 lines 1 to 4]

¹ Some translations specified as set texts for particular modules, particularly where poetry is set out as prose (e.g. Aristophanes, some versions of Homer or Virgil), make it difficult always to give *exact* line numbers. If you can't check with e.g. a parallel Greek/Latin and English version (which usually allows you to match up the line numbers more closely), the convention is to include "c." for "circa" (= 'approximately') before the line numbers, e.g. Virgil, *Aeneid* 2 c.11–14.

Similarly, sometimes the specified set edition of a prose text may not give more than book divisions; in that case give book no. and page no. from the edition you are using.

Never refer only to page numbers from the edition/translation you are using; in fact you do not usually need to include these at all.

With a few ancient authors, who only produced one extant work, it is allowable to use just the author's name plus precise reference: thus:

- Thucydides 6.15.1 (or Thucydides 6.15)
- Herodotus 2.2.3 (or Herodotus 2.2)

The **first** time you refer to the particular text in your work, you may (but need not) include full details in a footnote of the translation/edition used, in the same format as you give this in the bibliography:

- “[...] sun in its rising” (Homer, *Iliad* 22.131–135)¹

¹ All quotations from this text are from Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. R. Lattimore (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 1951).

Or, if you put the reference itself in a footnote:

- “[...] sun in its rising”¹

¹ Homer, *Iliad* 22.135–139. This and all subsequent references to this text from Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. R. Lattimore (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 1951).

Or you can just put the following:

- “[...] sun in its rising” (Homer, *Iliad* 22.131–135)¹

¹ All quotations from this [and other classical texts] are from the translation[s]/edition[s] listed in the bibliography.

Bibliography entries for primary texts

A If the translation edition comprises only the work referred to, there are two possible formats:

- (i) Thucydides, *History*, in: R. Warner (trans.), *Thucydides: History of the Peloponnesian War* (London: Penguin, 1954)

or:

- (ii) Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. R. Warner (London: Penguin, 1954)

- (i) Homer, *The Iliad*, in: R. Lattimore (trans.), *The Iliad of Homer* (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 1951)

or:

- (ii) Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. R. Lattimore (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 1951)

(i) is the better format to use if you will be using material from the introduction and/or notes by the translator/editor; any such material can (and of course should!) then be referenced under the *translator's* (or editor's) name.

B If you are using a translation (e.g. of a play) from an edition involving a *collection* of works, the format is as follows:

(i) Horace, *Epistles*, in: N. Rudd (trans.), *The Satires of Horace and Persius* (London: Penguin Classics, 1997)

Sophocles, *Antigone*, in: H.D.F. Kitto (trans.), E. Hall (ed. & intro.), *Sophocles: Antigone, Oedipus the King, Electra* (Oxford: O.U.P., 1994)

(ii) Aristophanes, *Wasps*, in: S. Dutta (ed. and trans.; revised from trans. by D. Barrett), *Aristophanes: Frogs and other plays* (London: Penguin, 2007)

(iii) Euripides, *Trojan Women*, trans. R. Lattimore, in: D. Grene & R. Lattimore (eds.), *The Complete Greek Tragedies: Euripides III* (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 1958)

[Note variations, if (ii) the translation is revised from an earlier version, or (iii) different works in the collected edition are translated by different people.]

Abbreviations

1. The accepted abbreviation for "translated by" is "**trans.**"; for "edited by", "**ed.**" or (if there is more than one editor) "**eds.**" (you will also meet "edd.>").
2. **Do not** invent your own abbreviations for authors and titles of classical texts. There are accepted conventions for these; you can find them under the '**Authors and Books**' section near the start of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* 3rd edition (eds. **S. Hornblower & A. Spawforth**).

Usually these comprise the first syllable of name or title, normally ending with a consonant: thus:

- Hom. *Od.* = Homer, *The Odyssey*
- Tac. *Ann.* = Tacitus, *Annals*
- Ar. *Wasps* = Aristophanes, *Wasps*

There are some exceptions, however: e.g. the accepted abbreviation for Herodotus is "Hdt."; for Aristotle, "Arist."

If you are not sure what the proper abbreviation is and there isn't an opportunity to look it up or ask, the safe bet is to use the full name/title.