

## MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS*copy this letter  
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Dear Mr. Dean,

In reply to your question as to what I think are the chief advantages to be derived from the study of Classics, I shall attempt to outline them as briefly as possible:

(1) Philosophy, Science, Art, Literature, Law, and in fact all the complex elements which go to make up modern civilisation had their origin, for the western world, in the civilisations of Greece and Rome. A study of these ancient civilisations through the medium of the languages in which the people thought and wrote is then of the utmost value towards both the understanding of the foundations of the modern world and the interpretation of modern civilisation and institutions.

(2) In both form and content the literatures of Greece and Rome admittedly occupy a unique place; and the study of them is a training in judgment and taste for which no substitute has ever been found. The tendency of modern education to emphasize scientific studies at the expense of literary or humanistic studies is bound to produce a one-sided and ill-balanced civilisation. I know of no better corrective to this tendency than a careful and accurate training in the Classical languages.

(3) The value of a Classical training for those who intend to study and understand English literature can hardly be over-emphasized. In the English public schools the principle adopted was: Take care of the Classics, and English literature will take care of itself: and experience has amply justified this principle. It is difficult to conceive of an intelligent study of English literature that is not based upon an acquaintance with the literatures of Greece and Rome.

(4) The Deans of the Departments of Law and Medicine have openly expressed their appreciation of a classical training as a preliminary to the study of Law and Medicine. The Department of Philosophy devoted two of its eight courses to the study of Greek philosophy: and the Departments of Economics and of Education are also vitally interested in the study of Greek thought.