

## Introduction to Classical Civilisation A Level for Year 11 Students

Classics is the study of the ancient Greek and Roman world. You will look at these amazing time periods through their archaeology, literature and art. In your AS year you will study two modules: Greek religion and Virgil's *Aeneid*. In the A2 year you will study two modules: Homer's *Odyssey* and Greek Theatre.

Explore the activities below to get a taste of what you will be studying and prepare yourself for it.



### Virgil's Aeneid

- Investigate Rome and the time period that the *Aeneid* was from: the age of Augustus. Watch this documentary and make notes on it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nuf5z0633aE>
  - Watch a summary of the Aeneid and make notes on it. We will be reading most of the Aeneid in lessons, focusing on the characters, important themes and how the ancient Roman world is portrayed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRruBVFXjnY>.
  - The good, the bad and the mad: Rome's emperors. Research these different emperors and decide who you think was the best, worst and the maddest! <https://mymodernmet.com/ancient-roman-emperors/>



### Greek Religion

- There are a multitude of Greek gods. Watch *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* as a starting point. Note down the different gods' powers and their relationships with each other (warning: their relationships are very complicated!).
- Watch this video about how the Greek gods were created. Create a family tree of the 12 Olympian gods (Zeus, Athena, Hades etc.): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VaO1tx29ek>
- Monsters and heroes: Research 3 monsters or Greek heroes. <https://greekgodsandgoddesses.net/creatures/> Bullet point:
  - Their family/background.
  - What they look like (if they are a monster).
  - Adventures or encounters they have.



### Homer's Odyssey

- Watch this series of videos about Assassin's Creed: Odyssey, exploring the background to the ancient Greek world included in the game, including an insight into the archaeology and Greek religion: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN\\_RX1AjtckBdnEBLLcukbe41TmOd9y5p](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN_RX1AjtckBdnEBLLcukbe41TmOd9y5p)
- Watch a summary of the Odyssey and make notes on it. We will be reading most of the Odyssey in lessons, focusing on the characters, important themes and how the ancient Greek world is portrayed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-3rHQ70Pag>

- Gods! The Odyssey is full of Greek gods. Research the different types of gods and create profiles on 3 of your favourites, including:
  1. Their powers
  2. Who they are related to (there's a lot of incest and complex relationships among the gods)
  3. Myths they are involved in



### Greek Theatre

- We will be investigating two genres within theatre: comedy and tragedy. Create a mind map for each genre. Define what makes something a comedy or tragedy. Include modern examples from film, TV and books, e.g. tragedy – *Pretty Little Liars*, *Wuthering Heights* or *Joker*.



- Most Greek theatre originated in Athens. Research ancient Athens and compare it to Sparta – they had very different ideas about politics, war and women. Watch the film *300* to see more of a comparison.
- Listen to this podcast by a highly respected Classicist on Classics and ancient Greek drama: <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/oliver-taplin-classics-0>

### Wider Reading/Exploration

- Read fiction set in the ancient Greek and Roman world, including *Circe* by Madeleine Miller, *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt and *The Silver Pigs* by Lindsey Davis. Stephen Fry's *Mythos* is an excellent way to learn all about the Greek gods.
- Watch documentaries on ancient Greece or Rome, including *Meet the Romans* by Mary Beard, which is on BBC iPlayer.
- Watch films and TV including *Plebs*, *Troy*, *300*, *Hercules*, and *Immortals*.