**Classical Civilisation A-Level**

Summer Holiday Prep



Well done for choosing Classical Civilisation A-level!

1. **Set texts to purchase:**

**These key texts will be studied in our lessons. It is not essential to read all of them before September, but you will be expected to purchase a copy of key texts that you can annotate.**

* ***The Odyssey,* Homer, translated by E.V Rieu (Penguin) ISBN: 9780140449112**
* ***The Aeneid*, Virgil, translated by D.West (Penguin) ISBN: 9780140449327**
* ***Oedipus the King*, translation by Fagles, in The Three Theban Plays (Penguin) ISBN: 9780808577126**
* ***Bacchae*, Euripides, Cambridge Translations from Greek Drama ISBN: 9780521653725**
* ***Frogs*, Aristophanes, Cambridge Translations from Greek Drama ISBN: 9780521172578**
* **The Odyssey: York Notes Advanced ISBN: 9780582431515**
* **The Aeneid: York Notes Advanced ISBN: 9780582431546**

1. **Bridging work for Greek Theatre**

Watch the following videos then answer the questions below (might be worth making notes as you watch to save time!). Please make notes on anything else you find interesting.

# **General theatre:**

1. An Introduction to Greek Theatre: <https://youtu.be/aSRLK7SogvE>
2. Thespis, Athens, and The Origins of Greek Drama: Crash Course Theater #2: <https://youtu.be/VeTeK9kvxyo>
3. An introduction to Greek Tragedy: <https://youtu.be/dSr6mP-zxUc>
4. An Introduction to Greek Comedy and Satyr Drama: <https://youtu.be/H-BvMbfkxcc>

General Theatre questions:

1. What do the following terms mean: Tragedy, Comedy, Satyr play, orchestra, chorus, dithyramb, tetralogy, choregos, altar, skene, paradoi, deus ex machine, catharsis and Dionysia?
2. What are the sources for our knowledge of Greek theatre?
3. Where and when were the plays performed? Explain why at this time.
4. Who were Dionysus, Thespis, Peisistratus, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes and Aristotle?
5. Describe what the ancient Greek theatre and what/who you would have seen on the stage and in the orchestra.
6. **Bridging work for World of the Hero**

Use the following sources of information on the **Odyssey** and answer the questions/complete the tasks that follow

**Resources:**

* <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/odyssey/summary/>
* <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/the-odyssey/the-odyssey-at-a-glance>

**Questions/tasks:**

1. What do we know about Homer who composed the Odyssey?
2. Who/what are the key characters, themes and places?
3. Chapters in epic poems are referred to as ‘books’. Summarise each book with the three key events.
4. What challenges does the protagonist face during the poem as a whole?

Use the following sources of information the **Aeneid** and answer the questions that follow

**Resources:**

* Why you should read the Aeneid: <https://youtu.be/p4mbk59rbjE>
* In Our Time: The Aeneid <https://youtu.be/2xIf9k6d1PQ>
* <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/aeneid/summary/>
* <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/aeneid/poem-summary>

**Questions:**

1. What do we know about Aeneid who wrote the Aeneid?
2. Who/what are the key characters, themes and places?
3. Chapters in epic poems are referred to as ‘books’. Summarise each book with the three key events.
4. What challenges does the protagonist face during the poem as a whole?
5. In what ways is the Aeneid similar to the Odyssey and in what ways is it different? Consider events that take place, challenges faced, types of heroes and themes.

**Optional**:

Browse the following website on the recent British Museum Troy Exhibition:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/troy-myth-and-reality>

Read the Aeneid in English by using the translation of Virgil Book XI on this website: <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/>. Create a list of characters and place names by section

*Classical Audio:*

* War With Troy: the Story of Achilles <http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/warwithtroy/>
* Return from Troy: the Story of Odysseus <http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/returnfromtroy/>
* Metamorphoses: Tales of Change <http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/metamorphoses/>

*Documentaries:*

* Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth – BBC Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAkLTWQUbG8&t=49s>
* Ancient Greece: The Odyssey – full documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J1F8LGUhWo>
* Meet the Romans - Mary Beard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rggk_H3jEgw>
* Pompeii – Mary Beard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnIY6AE4m6E> (Anything by Mary Beard is excellent and often available on YouTube)