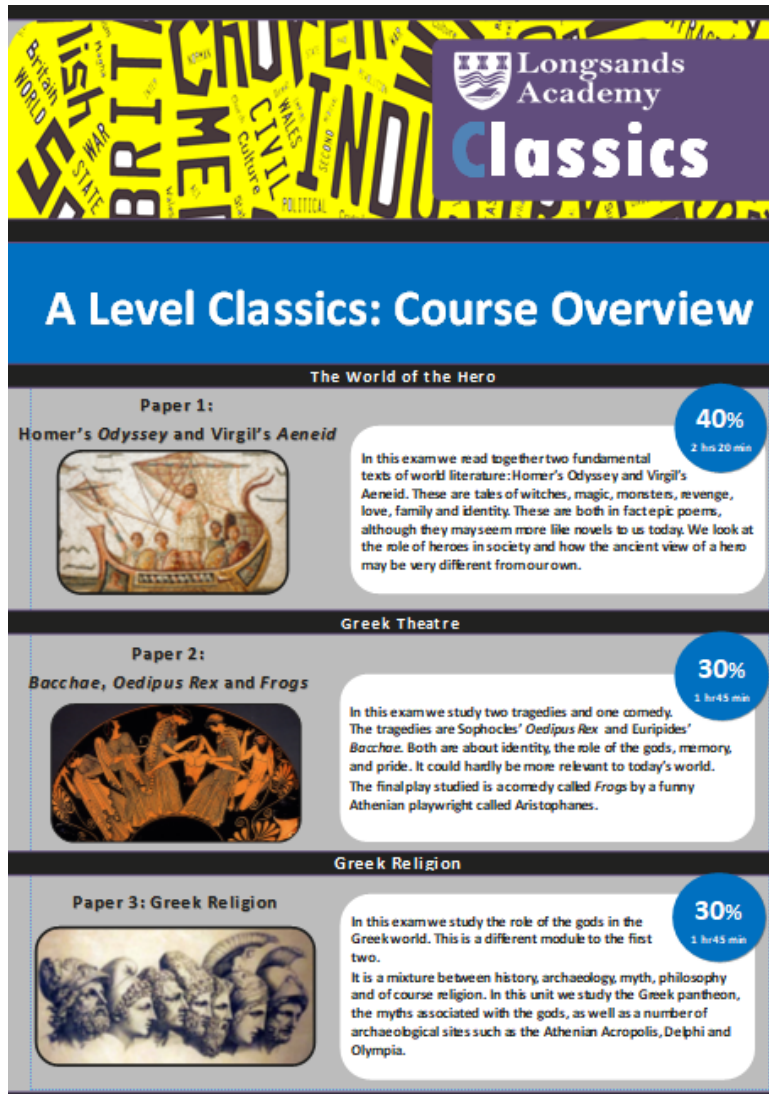


Transition materials for A Level Classical Civilisation




Longsands Academy Classics

A Level Classics: Course Overview

The World of the Hero

Paper 1:
Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid




40%
2 hr 20 min

In this exam we read together two fundamental texts of world literature: Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*. These are tales of witches, magic, monsters, revenge, love, family and identity. These are both in fact epic poems, although they may seem more like novels to us today. We look at the role of heroes in society and how the ancient view of a hero may be very different from our own.

Greek Theatre

Paper 2:
Bacchae, Oedipus Rex and Frogs




30%
1 hr 45 min

In this exam we study two tragedies and one comedy. The tragedies are Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* and Euripides' *Bacchae*. Both are about identity, the role of the gods, memory and pride. It could hardly be more relevant to today's world. The final play studied is a comedy called *Frogs* by a funny Athenian playwright called Aristophanes.

Greek Religion

Paper 3: Greek Religion



30%
1 hr 45 min

In this exam we study the role of the gods in the Greek world. This is a different module to the first two. It is a mixture between history, archaeology, myth, philosophy and of course religion. In this unit we study the Greek pantheon, the myths associated with the gods, as well as a number of archaeological sites such as the Athenian Acropolis, Delphi and Olympia.

Introduction

Welcome to the A Level Classics booklet preparing you to start you're a Level Classics course.

This pamphlet contains advice and activities that will help you to prepare you for the academic demands of the Classics course.

All activities are aimed to be used after you complete your GCSE exams and should be completed in stages throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

The reading list and documentaries/films are not intended to be read/watched in their entirety – it is merely a suggested list. Perhaps purchase one or two of them.

We look forward to working with you.

Details of the specification can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/315133-specification-accredited-a-level-classical-civilisation-h408.pdf>

Reading List

A copy of all the texts that you study can be found here:

<http://www.poetryintranslation.com/index.html#Greek>

The following list is not intended to be read in its entirety. However, I would encourage you to try and read some of the books below as it will give you an excellent understanding of your topics.

Books – Non Fiction

1. PAPER 1: EPIC

- **Homer's Odyssey a student guide: Jasper Griffin** – This is a very accessible book that covers all of the different background information to the Odyssey as well as some analysis of the characters and key themes of the epic.
- **Homer's Odyssey- a companion to the English translation of Lattimore: Peter Jones** – This is a commentary that explains what the text means and points out useful points of language and technique. It is excellent.
- **Homer: Martin Thorpe** – This small book of just over 60 pages covers all of the main historical and social background to the epic poem. It is similar in the things that it covers to Jasper Griffin's book above.
- **Virgil: Jasper Griffin** – This small book of 100 pages outlines who Virgil was and some of his writings. The final chapter is all about the Aeneid.
- **Aeneas and the Roman Hero: R D Williams** – This is excellent! I can't recommend it enough. It is a great overview of the Aeneid. It analyses the Aeneid in terms in literary, historical and cultural ways.

2. PAPER 2: GREEK THEATRE

- **Aristophanes and his theatre of the absurd: Paul Cartledge** – Again, a short book at just over 70 pages, but packed full of interesting analysis of Aristophanes.
- **Greek Tragedy – suffering under the sun: Edith Hall** – Read the introduction. It is all online here <http://edithhall.co.uk/books/greek-tragedy-suffering-under-the-sun>
- **Sophocles' Oedipus the King: Edith Hall** – Again, you can find a free translation of it with introductory notes here <http://edithhall.co.uk/books/antigone-oedipus-the-king-and-electra>

3. PAPER 3: GREEK RELIGION

- **Greek Sanctuaries and temple architecture: Mary Emerson** – This book is slightly more in depth but covers the three main sanctuaries on our course -
- **Religion and the Greeks: Robert Garland** – This is a very accessible overview of Greek religion. An excellent starting point for an introduction

Books – Fiction

Some fun summer reading here. They are all very readable.

1. PAPER 1: EPIC

- **The Penelopiad: Margaret Atwood** – This is an interesting look at the Odyssey from Penelope's perspective. She is the wife of Odysseus who was away for 20 years. This is her take on events.
- **The mighty dead. Why Homer matters: Adam Nicolson** – This book traces the influence of Homer across history and shows how influential his writings have been, and why they are still so foundational today.

2. PAPER 2: GREEK THEATRE

- **House of names: Colm Toibin** – All about Greek Tragedy and the Oresteia.
- **The Children of Jocasta: Natalie Haynes** – All about how the Oedipus and Antigone stories would look if the oft-overlooked female characters took centre stage.

3. PAPER 3: GREEK RELIGION

- **Heroes: Stephen Fry** – A very easy read and a good overview of all of the mythical stories about Greek heroes. The parts on Hercules are particularly important for our course
- **Mythos: Stephen Fry** – Again, a very easy read on the Greek myths and their gods. It will give a great flavour of the Olympians and their shenanigans.

Films/documentaries

1. PAPER 1: EPIC

- **Troy** – Who doesn't love Brad Pitt!? This is a re-telling of Homer's first epic poem – the Iliad. I won't give away the ending but it involves a Trojan Horse. Beware of Greeks bearing gifts!

2. PAPER 2: GREEK THEATRE

- **The Greatest Show on earth** - This is a great BBC documentary series about Greek Drama by Michael Scott.

Summer term transition tasks

These tasks will take around 12-13 hours to complete. Please do not leave them until the last minute, otherwise you will not manage to get it all done. Evidence of this work should be presented to your teachers on the first lesson back in September. I would try and type most answers and definitions as it can then form part of a rolling list that you add to throughout the course

1. PAPER 1: EPIC

Task 1: Character profiles:

Create a fact-file about the following characters in the Odyssey. You should include who they are and what happened to them in the poem: (Time 2 hours). A starting point will be:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/odyssey/characters/> Please do not copy and paste, and please add to this from elsewhere.

- Odysseus
- Penelope
- Telemachus
- Athene (or Athena)
- Circe
- Calypso

Task 2: Define these key Greek words with a definition that you understand: (Time 1 hour)

- Xenia
- Xenoι
- Oikos
- Polymetis
- Nostos
- Dolos
- Etai
- Kleos
- Akleos
- Klama
- Timē
- Aretē
- Technē
- Nomos
- Hubris
- Polis
- Rhapsode

Task 3: Listen to the following podcast on Homer's Odyssey:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y297>

Make 10 bullet point notes about what the scholars said. Please note down which scholar said which thing, as you will need to know scholars' opinions for your exam. (Time 1 hour)

PAPER 2: GREEK THEATRE

Task 1: Create a detailed fact file on each of your 3 playwrights: Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes. Do each on a separate page. Some things to include: dates of birth and death, plays they wrote, if they won any prizes for their plays, topics and themes that appear in their plays, etc.

Comedy (but informative) Podcast on Aristophanes <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b076bz3h>

Comedy (but informative) Podcast on Sophocles <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b03z9gmm>

Comedy (but informative) Podcast on Euripides <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bf56gp>

(Time 3 hours)

Task 2: Write a summary of your three plays. Each summary should be a page long. (Time 3 hours)

Euripides' *Bacchae*

Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*

Aristophanes' *Frogs*

Task 3: Watch the following lecture about the Theatre of Dionysus where most of these plays were performed <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/theatre-dionysus>

Please make a Page of notes, in particular focusing on the Athenians that watched the plays, the context in which the plays were staged, and the types of plays that were put on. (Time 1 hour)

Task 4: Write a Glossary of the following theatrical terms in words that you understand (Time 1 hours)

- **Hamartia**
- **Prologue**
- **Parodos (2 meanings)**
- **Stasimon (pl. Stasima)**
- **Epilogue**
- **Exodus**
- **Skene**
- **Orchestra**
- **Peripeteia**
- **Anagnorisis**
- **Catharsis**
- **deus ex machina**
- **Protagonist**
- **Chorus**
- **Choregos**
- **Dithyramb**

PAPER 3: GREEK RELIGION

Task 1: Research the Greek gods and find out about them. Complete the following table. (Time 1 hours)

	Domain	Powers	Symbols	Characteristics/Key facts
Zeus	Sky/heavens, Olympus	Lord of Olympus, keeper of justice, control over men's fate	Lightning bolt, eagle, sceptre	Promiscuous, capricious, capable of great anger
Hera	Marriage, childbirth, family and womanhood	Queen of Olympus, protector of women	Diadem, lion, cuckoo, hawk, lotus-shaped sceptre	Jealous, vengeful, implacable.
Demeter				
Poseidon				
Hephaestus/ Hephaistos				
Apollo				
Artemis				
Athena				
Aphrodite				
Ares				
Dionysos				
Hestia				
Hermes				
Hades				

Task 2: Define these key words in a way that you can understand. Time 1 hour

hiera

iconography

polytheism

anthropomorphism

epithet

chthonic

aegis

acropolis

oracle

lyre

sanctuary

colonnade

cella (naos)

Ionic frieze

Doric frieze

hierous/hiereia

augur

blood sacrifice

hecatomb

altar