

Preparing to study Classical Civilisation A Level



Welcome

- to a subject that will change how you look at life forever
- to the oldest subject in the Western World
- to Classical Civilisation

Preparation

1. Know your Greek and Roman gods!

If you know them already - that is fantastic! If you are less sure about them there is a [colouring in book](#) you can download and enjoy while listening to the Odyssey (see 2). You can additionally read your sibling / someone else's child some of the many Greek Myth books for kids!

2. Listen to Homer's Odyssey (or read it).

You will find a recording of the Odyssey [here](#) divided up by its chapters. If you have already read it - it will do you no harm at all to read it again. If you get really excited, see if you can listen to the [Iliad](#) as well. Although we won't be studying it, understanding it (or reading Stephen Fry's ['Troy'](#).) will give you a massive boost!

3. Read some historical novels or detective stories based in Ancient Greek or Rome.

For example:

Stephen Fry's [Mythos](#), [Heroes](#), etc.

Mary Renault's [The Mask of Apollo](#)

Margaret Atwood's [The Penelopiad](#)

Steven Saylor's [Roma](#), etc.

Robert Harris's [Cicero](#) Trilogy

4. Watch Professor Michael Scott's documentary:

Ancient Greece The Greatest Show on Earth 1 - [Democrats](#) and 2 [Kings](#). Make notes on the ideas.

What will I need?

You will need a copy of Homer's [Odyssey](#) - the version we will be using will be Homer, 'Odyssey' translated by **E. V. Rieu**, revised translation by D. C. H. Rieu (Penguin). You can usually get hold of a second-hand copy very cheaply. If you have any problem with this, please let me know. The school has funds that may be able to help.

You will need a lever arch folder for all your notes and booklets and I really recommend investing in a set of folder dividers.

You will need file paper or a good notebook for note-taking.

Additional fun...

Watch bits of (it's 11 hours long!) the Discovery Tour for Assassin's Creed Odyssey on YouTube [here](#).

Watch the TED Talk on The Odyssey [here](#).

Watch Overly Sarcastic Productions versions of The [Iliad](#) and [Odyssey](#).

Listen to as many episodes of [Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics](#) on BBC Sounds as you possibly can.



Listen to [In Our Time](#) episodes on Classics topics

Any problems, questions or concerns...



Please email me at barnettc@bishopluffa.org.uk

I'm really looking forward to working with you in September!

Chloë Barnett