A-level Classical Civilisation: Independent learning and enrichment tasks

Resources and tasks to enhance your knowledge of the Ancient World and help you to prepare for A-level Classical Civilisation over the two year course. These tasks are for completion for homework, during independent study and during holidays or school closure times.

Remember that we have the Massolit on-line resource too for all our topic areas. You should create an account using your school email address.
https://www.massolit.io/users/sign_up

Keep this sheet at the front of your file and aim to do **at least two tasks per week**.

Refer to the detailed syllabus (which should be kept in your file at the front too) which tells you about the areas of Greek Theatre, The World of the Hero and Greek Religion which you need to know. Your plays are Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aristophanes' *Frog*s. Remember that you also have Visual Sources for the Greek Theatre and Greek Religion topics for which you need to complete a booklet (on Teams).

The following tasks are set tasks that will enable you to participate in class discussions over the coming weeks.

Resource	**Task**	**Time**	**To be completed by:**	**Date completed:**
"What is myth?" https://youtu.be/HeX6CX5LEj0	Watch the clip	13 mins		
"Pantheons: Greek and Roman" https://youtu.be/XNCQ9w59I7M	Watch the clip. Make a note of any questions you have.	13 mins		
Episodes 1-4 http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/warwithtroy/	Listen to these Episodes 1-4.Make a list of key characters for each episode.	58 mins +10 mins		
Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics – *The Iliad* https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000d7p2	Listen to this radio programme. What important themes of *The Iliad* are highlighted?	28 mins +5 mins		
Why you should read the Aeneid (Ted Ed) https://youtu.be/p4mbk59rbjE	Watch the clip	6 mins		
Everything you need to know to read the Odyssey https://youtu.be/8Z9FQxcCAZ0	Watch the clip	5 mins		
Crash course *Odyssey* https://youtu.be/MS4jk5kavy4	A very good summary with background info and analysis. Why do you think this story still appeals to modern audiences?	13 mins +10 mins		

Resource	Task	Time	To be completed by:	Date completed:
Greek heroes https://youtu.be/WCSqGUb-Kbw	Ignore the dodgy images and strange American accents – a good summary of some of the most famous heroes. What are some of the common features of their stories? Pick one hero and find out more details about their story.	5 mins +30 mins		
Ted Ed – a day in the life of an Athenian https://youtu.be/ar8S6virCwM	Watch the clip Tell me five things about Ancient Athens that you didn't know before watching this.	5 mins +5 mins		
Ted Ed a day in the life of a Roman teenager https://youtu.be/juWYhMoDTN0	How different is it from Athens of today?	7 mins +10 mins		
Audible: (App) 24 hours in Athens 24 hours in Rome	If you can get access to Audible, you can listen to these; they are great fun and a great way of learning, you can also listen to them anywhere!	Several hours!		
Ted Ed 4 Roman sisters https://youtu.be/RQMgLxVxsrw	Were there any positives to being a woman in Rome?	9 mins +10 mins		
Crash Course Mythical Cities (from 6 mins on – founding of Rome) https://youtu.be/9EbZBJZruAc	What does the founding of Rome myth suggest about how Romans viewed themselves?	7 mins +10 mins		
Crash Course Roman Empire https://youtu.be/oPf27gAup9U	Do you agree with John Green's assessment that Julius Caesar didn't destroy the Roman republic?	13 mins		

The following will enhance your understanding and appreciation of the Ancient World and support your studies, but they are not required for specific lessons this term. You should choose activities from this list to fill out your periods of independent study. These aren't listed in any particular order. Look through the list and choose things that either you need to know more about or that you are interested in. Try to choose a variety of different activities – some reading, some plays, some YouTube, some podcasts. I have included topics to enhance your course.

Resource	Task	Time	✓ If done
Audio story telling			
http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/warwithtroy/ Episodes 5-12	As you listen to the rest of the episodes, consider – What impression do you get of: 1) Achilles 2) The gods 3) Paris 4) Hector 5) War	2.5 hours	
http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/returnfromtroy/ All episodes	Tells the story of Odysseus As you listen to the rest of the episodes, consider – What impression do you get of: 1) Odysseus 2) The gods	3 hours	
http://classictales.educ.cam.ac.uk/stories/metamorphoses/ All episodes	Various myths taken from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. You can pick and choose episodes as there's no necessary order so can choose based on how much time you have and what interests you.	Ranges from 5 mins to 15 mins.	
Podcasts			
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0093z1k The Greek Myths – In Our Time (Melvyn Bragg's Radio 4 programme)		45 mins	
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bf56gp Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics - *Euripides*	One of our set authors	27 mins	
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03z9gmm Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics - *Sophocles*	One of our set authors	28 mins	

Resource	Task	Time	✓ If done
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b076bz3h Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics - *Aristophanes*	One of our set authors	27 mins	
Other relevant Natalie Haynes episodes for A-level: Plato Ovid Virgil Sappho Helen of Troy	These are authors or people who feature in the A-level	30 mins each	
Other relevant 'In our Time' episodes https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/search?q=in+our+time+Greek&page=1	The three in the search list I've posted here are directly linked to A-level topics. There are, however, pages of In Our Time episodes that are relevant to the classical world. Explore and see what interests you.	45 mins each	
Simon Armitage on Greek Tragedy https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b042j8xz	One of our topics	45 mins	
https://www.britishmuseum.org/membership/membercasts	Podcasts from the British Museum on a variety of topics. I think they are all fascinating but I recommend the Troy one in particular	40 mins	
https://soundcloud.com/britishmuseum/the-museum-podcast-special	Another British Museum podcast about the Trojan war with Alexandra Villing and Natalie Haynes	53 mins	
YouTube video tutorials			
Crash course Greeks and Persians https://youtu.be/Q-mkVSasZIM	Useful general historical background to Classics	12 mins	
Crash course Hercules https://youtu.be/R0qkSTvRQa8	General Mythology	13min	
Troy story – open uni https://youtu.be/cx0tQojZNIU https://youtu.be/BBGO0T-JE8A	One of the topics - two very brief videos from Open University summarising *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*	5 mins	

Resource	Task	Time	✓ If done
Ted Ed the Greeks playlist https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwmS6ONymXFC7yIzdkTUt3u2_d_nTid8r	A variety of historical, mythical and literary video clips, mostly around 5 minutes	Approx 5 mins each	
TV documentaries			
Greatest show on Earth – Prof. Michael Scott 3 part documentary series Part 1 https://youtu.be/FAkLTWQUbG8 Part 2 https://youtu.be/EaRIZIPAL6M Part 3 https://youtu.be/tnqz1zxGDTA	Really good background for the whole course and delivered by one of our favourite classicists, Professor Michael Scott. Search for him on YouTube. He has lots of short clips to do with life in Greece particularly and has done several interesting documentaries.	1hour x3	
Bethany Hughes documentary - Athens: The truth About Democracy https://youtu.be/kDiO_zQv0Ww	Another good presenter – this time focused on Athenian democracy	1 hour 40 mins	
Plays (available online – some for a limited time)			
National Theatre *Antigone* (stars Christopher Ecclestone and Jodie Whittaker. Very good.) National Theatre *Medea* BBC *Oedipus Rex* (set text but a very old performance)	Find clips by searching on Youtube for the National Theatre and Greek Tragedy	Short clips	
Actors of Dionysus Greek Comedy: Lysistrata (16+ adult themes) Tragedy: *Antigone*	https://vimeo.com/402257276?fbclid=IwAR1GNAWhk9qgzjgyHbg-l4xWAKIc9hemxsweXqZJkDhMWRnkiEEA2Yr49v8 https://vimeo.com/399891730/fd7663d198?fbclid=IwAR1Ii08dYa_o7Im5JxMNpv8Omj2z_1r-M8Q_nxuubgIWPykeLou4UQip8VY	1hr 20 mins each	

Resource	Task	Time	✓ If done
Comedy: *Frogs* Either Warwick Uni https://youtu.be/DM7JfS4Q_ww or Cambridge Uni https://youtu.be/yYYQIn_sC-4	One of our set texts. The Cambridge Uni one is in Greek with English subtitles but is a fantastic performance. The Warwick Uni one is in English but a less good performance.	1hr 20 mins 54 mins	
Reading			
Stephen Fry *Mythos* and *Heroes*	Available as audiobooks on audible as well as books. General background		
The Iliad	There will be many free translations online but I recommend the poetry in translation website for ease of access.		
The Odyssey	There will be many free translations online but I recommend the poetry in translation website for ease of access		
The Aeneid	There will be many free translations online but I recommend the poetry in translation website for ease of access		
Aeschylus *Oresteia*	There will be many free online translations		
Euripides *Medea*	There will be many free online translations		
Sophocles *The Theban Plays*	There will be many free online translations		
Ovid *Metamorphoses*	There will be many free translations online but I recommend the poetry in translation website for ease of access		
Ovid *Heroides*	There will be many free translations online but I recommend the poetry in translation website for ease of access		

Books and Movies Just for fun			
Natalie Haynes *Thousand Ships* *Children of Jocasta* *Mrs B's verdict: ******	Pat Barker *The Silence of the Girls* *Haven't read it yet but I hear it's brutal*	Ursula K Le Guin *Lavinia* ******	Margaret Atwood *The Penelopiad* ******
Madeleine Miller *Song of Achilles* *Circe* *Galatea* *Haven't read Galatea but the other two: ******	Kamila Shaksie *Homefire*	Costanza Cosati *Clytemnestra* *Brilliant ******	Natalie Haynes *Stone Blind* *Loved it******
Oh Brother Where art Thou (a modern retelling of the Odyssey) *Mrs B's verdict: weird but fun ****	*Hercules* (starring the Rock) *Haven't watched it!*	*Hercules* (Disney) *Haven't watched it!*	*Gladiator* *My favourite film, I think; I can quote endlessly from it... ******