

# Welcome to A Level Classical Civilisation

- **What you can read:**

Homer, 2003. *The Odyssey*. Translated by E. V. Rieu. London: Penguin Books.

Virgil, 2003. *The Aeneid*. Translated by David West. London: Penguin Books.

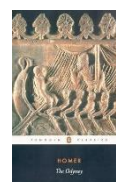
'OCR A Level Classical Civilisation Specification' – link below:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/classical-civilisation-h008-h408-from-2017/>

- **What are some of the topics and skills that you will cover:**

Below are some of the topics and skills that we will cover over the course of your time at College:

<b><u>Topics</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant skills to the topic</u></b>
<p><b><u>'The World of the Hero'</u></b> In this topic we will cover epic poetry in the form of The Odyssey in the first year and The Aeneid in the second.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpreting the texts in their social, cultural and historical contexts.</li> <li>- Evaluation and analysis of the texts in order to make substantiated judgements about what it meant to be a hero in Ancient Greece/Rome.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>'Imperial Image'</u></b> In this first year topic we will cover Augustus Caesar and how he conveyed his personal brand to all social classes of Rome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpreting texts and material culture in their social, cultural and historical contexts.</li> <li>- Evaluation and analysis of the evidence in order to make substantiated judgements about the reality of the Augustan regime across all classes of Rome.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>'Love and Relationships'</u></b> In this second year topic we will cover poetry from Ovid and Sappho alongside Philosophy from Plato and Seneca.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpreting poetry and philosophy in their social, cultural and historical contexts.</li> <li>- Evaluation and analysis of the evidence in order to make substantiated judgements about reality of love and relationships in ancient everyday life.</li> </ul>



- **What you can watch:**

Here are some videos for you to watch to get you started on those topics:

- The Odyssey introduction <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS4jk5kavy4>
- The Odyssey full length documentary <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1evjzh>
- The Aeneid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jShpsDnmVKE>
- Imperial Image (background to Augustus' rise to power)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y33LnxG2L80>

- **Tasks that you can do to prepare you:**

**Task 1 – The Odyssey**

Before the reading of the story, it is helpful to make you aware of some of the elements involved in the epic poem. The following activities are designed to get you ready for what is coming in terms of themes and events.

- Interview someone who has been on an interesting trip, possibly one that entailed some type of danger or excitement. Write a story accurately depicting the journey, using as much detail and description as possible.
- Have you ever wanted to know what people said and thought about you when you weren't around? If you could disguise yourself in some way and be around the people you know, how would you carry it out? Describe your ideal disguise and a scenario that you imagine would take place if you could be "a fly on the wall."
- Do you believe in guardian angels? Explain and give examples.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses? Describe them and how they affect your life.
- Who is your favourite hero – explain why.

**Task 2 – Imperial Image**

In order to fully understand the emperor you will study for two years, it would be beneficial for you to research his reign and career. It's a good idea to start here:

<https://www.ancient.eu/augustus/>

After you have read this feel free to find out more information by researching him online. After this write an opinion piece stating exactly why you believe he was a good or bad emperor overall.

- **Contact information**

- If you have questions regarding this or any other A Level course at Burnley College, please contact [alevels@burnley.ac.uk](mailto:alevels@burnley.ac.uk) or call 01282733373

We look forward to seeing you in September.