

**WORLD OF THE HERO**

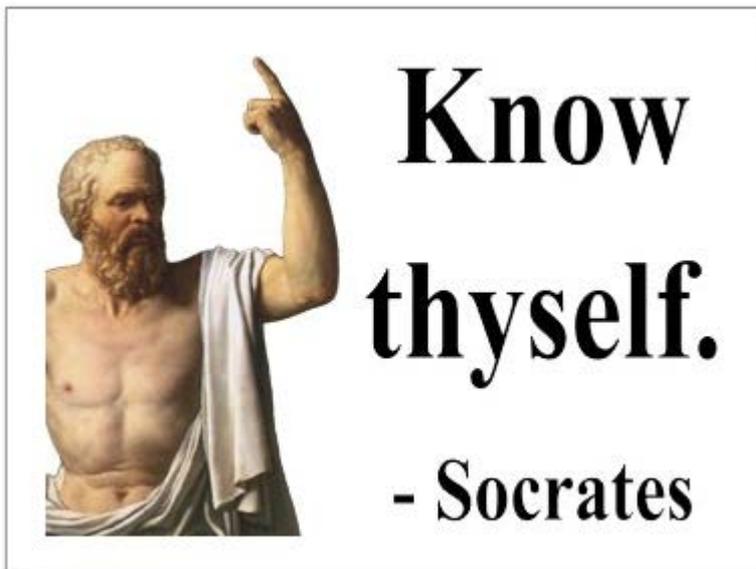
**CULTURE + THE ARTS**

**BELIEFS + IDEAS**



# **CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

**A-LEVEL**



**Know  
thyself.**

**- Socrates**

**PREPARATION  
FOR YEAR 12**

## MODULE 1

# THE WORLD OF THE HERO (H408/11) Homer's *Odyssey*

- Homer *The Odyssey*

Exploring how contemporary values are reflected through the themes and narrative.

**Study will focus on:**

- Characterisation and theme:
- The social, cultural and religious context:
- Technique and composition:

**PREPARATION:**

**READ**

Get a copy and start reading! [www.poetryintranslation.com](http://www.poetryintranslation.com) has downloadable free copies of all the Classical works we will be studying – and more if you want!

**CONSIDER**

How can we know about a society by reading a work of literature??

Who are the characters? Who is being used as ideals?

How are the different sections in society represented and by whom?

What's the evidence for what was socially acceptable and what was not?

What were 8<sup>th</sup> Century morals / customs?

What opinion do you have of the gods and what's their purpose – as seen through the eyes of a Homeric hero?

How well does the author entertain and engage the audience?

What are your most favourite parts and why?

Can you sense the pace and action?

**WATCH**

There are cinematic productions of the "Odyssey" available.

The film "Troy" (based on Homer's Iliad) is also worth watching for further background knowledge as it's following this epic battle that the "Odyssey" begins.

**PRINT**

Print out an outline of the East Mediterranean plotting the journey of Odysseus. It may help to remember things in the order they happened.

**RESEARCH**

Do some research online into:

Homer + EPIC and ORAL POETRY

## MODULE 2

# CULTURE AND THE ARTS (H408/21)

## Greek theatre

- Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*
- Euripides' *Bacchae*
- Aristophanes' *Frogs*

### Students will study:

- Drama and the theatre in ancient Athenian society
- Nature of tragedy
- Nature of (old) comedy
- Literary techniques, structure, and dramatic conventions
- Social, political and religious themes in tragedy
- Social, political and religious themes in comedy

### PREPARATION:

READ – [www.poetryintranslation.com](http://www.poetryintranslation.com) –read online versions of these plays

### CONSIDER:

In a nutshell – what is the story about?

Who are the main characters?

How do you react to them? Do you feel sympathetic towards them or not? Why?

Do you believe that there is a destiny for your life or do you think you are in control?

Why do you think some people do?

What's your favourite film – why? What values and customs does it highlight?

### RESEARCH / WATCH

Research the myth of Oedipus and print a map of Ancient Greece to understand the location of Thebes, Corinth and Delphi.

The National Theatre has some short videos that explain and explore aspects of Greek theatre and how they have interpreted them onto the modern stage

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/search/greek%20theatre>

Documentary: BBC Ancient Greece; The Greatest Show on Earth – available on youtube – explores what Ancient theatre represented.

## MODULE 3

# BELIEFS AND IDEAS (H408/31) Greek Religion

- The Olympian gods                      Personal experience of the divine
- Places of worship                      Religion + Society
- Rituals + priests                      Religion + Philosophy

### Students will study –

- why the Athenians believed in the gods
- how they demonstrated their worship
- philosophy and how it conflicted with the state belief

### PREPARATION:

READ – Sophie’s World –the first 6 chapters explores pre-socratic philosophy

### RESEARCH:

The Acropolis – the Parthenon.

The 12 Olympian

Why do you think the Athenians believed in multiple gods?

Consider what your personal belief is.

Research the Parthenon structure and friezes online

Consider the relevance of the gods

### If you plan on going to London...

**Visit** the Ancient Greek exhibitions in the British museum and take photos

Throughout the course you are encouraged to read/watch/listen **beyond** the set text to ensure maximum preparation and understanding of the core texts. These are some suggestions.

### LISTEN

Radio 4 has a programme “In our time”. Listen to the discussion on “The Odyssey” and anything you feel might be relevant. There are 4 pages of discussion connected with Ancient Greece.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/in-our-time/archive/ancient\\_greece/4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/in-our-time/archive/ancient_greece/4)

### **List of Useful Websites for both modules**

[www.ancientgreece.com](http://www.ancientgreece.com)

<http://ancienthistory.about.com/library>

[www.classicspage.com](http://www.classicspage.com)

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

[www.rdg.ac.uk/classics/Link/index.php/Link/index](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/classics/Link/index.php/Link/index).

[www.edithhall.co.uk](http://www.edithhall.co.uk) Professor Edith hall has made most of her works freely available online to download. Her articles associated with the modules we will be studying are worth reading.