

Key Stage 5 (12)	
Course title: A-level Classics	
Exam board: OCR	
Specification code: H408	
	Topic Greek Religion; Homer's Odyssey
Autumn 1 (September-October)	<p>Olympian gods introduced, forming crucial background to both units studied; the Greeks' conception of their gods examined by means of primary sources. Particular focus on evidence from Homer and Hesiod.</p> <p>Contextual information (Trojan War, myth of Orestes etc) forming background to the text. Books 1-4 of the Odyssey and the focus on the mortal world in Ithaca, characters of Telemachus, Penelope. The custom of xenia and the concept of kleos will be a focus.</p>
Autumn 2 (October-December)	<p>Religious practices surrounding the gods – prayer and sacrifice; religious sanctuaries and defining features, with reference to R. Garland; the Athenian Acropolis and the Panathenaea – prescribed site number one.</p> <p>Books 5-8: focus shifts to Odysseus himself. Odysseus is released and he journeys to the civilization of the Phaeacians. A pattern of conventions of epic and the oral tradition can now be examined – epithets, repetition etc. Kleos and xenia continue and are now joined by nostos.</p>
Spring 1 (January-February)	<p>The concept and practices surrounding oracles, with reference to Tom Harrison and Herodotus; Delphi studied as a specific instance of an oracle (prescribed site number 2); Olympia, prescribed site number three – anatomy of the site and practices therein, most notably the Olympic games.</p> <p>Books 9-14: Odysseus' retrospective narrative becomes the focus for this half-term; fantastical and supernatural elements join the realism of books 1-8; structural matters of books 9-12 examined; inconsistencies in the text addressed.</p>
Spring 2 (February-March)	<p>The worship of the healing god Asclepius; Dodona – playing second fiddle to Delphi; priests – an understanding of a role with very different conditions when compared to modern expectations of religion.</p> <p>Books 15-19: Odysseus returns to his homeland to find it drastically changed. The conventions of nostos, kleos and xenia are capitalized upon here, and dramatic irony becomes a constant technical feature.</p>

<p>Summer 1 (April-May)</p>	<p>Changing forces and fashions can now be studied, with the spotlight on the Eleusinian Mysteries; Philosophy represents the end of our journey – a study of thinkers who discussed traditional religion, questioned, doubted or, at least, opened the door for scepticism.</p> <p>Books 19-24: Foreshadowing and dramatic irony reach fever pitch; Homer builds anticipation towards the denouement of Odysseus confrontation with the suitors.</p>
<p>Summer 2 (May-July)</p>	<p>Odyssey Whole-text matters: Homer and History; Homer's and the oral tradition; problems associated with the text; the provenance of the text.</p> <p>Virgil's Aeneid The Roman epic is introduced now that the conventions of Greek epic have been established by studying Homer. The context of Aeneas' descent, narrative and political significance for the Romans.</p> <p>Book 1 studied in detail.</p> <p>Imperial Image An introduction to the Roman World – social structure, government of the Republic. The breakdown of the Republic brought about by Julius Caesar and his assassination. The rise to prominence of Octavian (later known as Augustus) and his success at the battle of Actium.</p>

Key Stage 5 (13)	
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	Topic Imperial Image; Virgil's Aeneid
Autumn 1 (September-October)	<p>Imperial Image Chronological study: Augustus' victory over Alexandria, subjugation of Egypt; Augustus' return to Rome; programme to reform the social orders; the settlement of 28-7BC Prescribed evidence studied in most accessible order: Horace texts 1-3, Res Gestae; Suetonius' <i>Augustus</i>.</p> <p>Aeneid Books 2-4. Focus on retrospective narrative, Odyssean aspects. Rage versus restraint.</p>
Autumn 2 (October-December)	<p>Imperial Image With the chronology established, students can now turn to a thematic treatment: Augustan building programme; moral reforms; Augustus the religious leader. Prescribed evidence: Horace texts 4-6, the <i>Ara Pacis</i></p> <p>Aeneid Books 5 and 6. Aeneas' progress in terms of leadership, building on his perceived uncertainty and error. Visit to the Underworld – anatomy of the Underworld, Augustan propaganda and visions of the future (accessible now that understanding of the Augustan world is secure).</p>
Spring 1 (January-February)	<p>Imperial Image Augustus and his empire – expansion versus peace; disaster and success; family matters and succession Prescribed evidence: Horace <i>Carmen Saeculare</i>; the Prima Porta statue; Propertius poems 1 and 2.</p> <p>Aeneid Books 7-8: Iliadic themes are explored – war, heroism, Roman expectations by comparison with Greek epic expectations.</p>
Spring 2 (February-March)	Imperial Image

	<p>Here, themes studied previously can be connected with new prescribed evidence. Visual sources: numismatic evidence; the Augustan forum and temple of Mars Ultor; the head of Livia. Propertius poems 3 and 4.</p> <p>Aeneid Books 9-11: The character of Turnus, the 'new Achilles', Nisus and Euryalus and the nature of what is admirable/noble; Mezentius the anti-hero; political discord – politician versus warrior; Camilla – the female face of heroism.</p>
<p>Summer 1 (April-May)</p>	<p>Imperial Image Concluding Augustus' story. Textual evidence: Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>, Tacitus and others' accounts of the death of Augustus. Reviewing all evidence: Augustus' legacy and an assessment of his level of success.</p> <p>Aeneid Book 12: The final confrontation – Aeneas Vs Turnus; a controversial ending; the concept of rage versus restraint recurs; examination of where the differences are between Aeneas and Turnus – to what extent we are convinced by Virgil's work and the distinctions he draws.</p>