

Get off to a 'Flying Start' in

Classical Civilisation - A Level

Welcome to Flying Start with North Devon College.

We hope that you are excited to join us at North Devon College. We want to help you to focus on your skills for your course with us and so below you will find questions to consider, tasks to complete and some background research to undertake before enrolment.



Please read the instructions and have a go at the activities.

If you get stuck, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section at the end of this document for help.

Our Epic poem next year is Homer's Odyssey. **Please purchase a copy as soon as you can and start reading it! The translation we will be using is as follows and it is very important that this is the copy you purchase/obtain: Publisher: Penguin Classics. Translated by: E V Rieu. Second hand copies are welcomed!**

A quick hello and introduction to the course!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EBVN9ky6nd2a1Kn3J8ZgicwjkSq6EUvR/view?usp=sharing>

Hello everyone, and welcome to your 'Flying Start' for Classical Civilisation! Congratulations on a great decision to study this course here with us. We are confident that you'll love exploring the ancient world in more depth and exploring ancient cultures including the history, literature, art, architecture, politics and philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome.

We hope that this begins to give you a sense of some of the things that we will be looking at on the course and the ways we study. But most importantly, we look forward to meeting you in September!

To get you started...

Task 1:

To ensure we are all on the same page when it comes to understanding the mythology of the ancient world, we would like you to start by watching this documentary on gods and goddesses. While you are watching, try creating a family tree of the gods and goddesses. Link to the documentary is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MSEsh6jgHE>

Task 2:

Next, we'd like to see how you interpret an ancient text and are able to use some of the skills you have gained through your study of literature so far as this will be an important part of our study of the ancient epic poems. Below is an extract from *The Odyssey* by Homer. Please read the extract and answer the following question with FOUR points which include evidence to support your point and analysis of how your quote proves your point is true. You may want to include some language analysis in your response such as the use of particular words or use of language techniques. You should spend around 30 minutes on this activity.

The Suitors came swaggering in and sat down in rows on the seats and chairs. Their squires poured water on their hands and the maids put piles of bread in bowls beside them, while the pages filled the mixing-bowls to the brim with wine. They helped themselves to the good things spread before them; and when all had satisfied their hunger and thirst, the Suitors turned their thoughts to other activities, music and dancing, which add to the pleasures of a banquet. A herald brought a beautiful lyre and handed it to Phemius, the minstrel whom they had forced into their service. He had just struck the first notes for some delightful song, when Telemachus spoke to bright-eyed Athene, with his head close to hers so that the others could not hear: 5

'Friend, will you be angry if I say something? How easy it is for that gang over there to think of nothing but music and songs! They are living free off another man – a man whose white bones are rotting in the rain upon some distant land or rolling in the salt sea waves. One glimpse of him in Ithaca and they'd pray for a faster pair of legs rather than gold or rich clothes! But as it is, he has come to some dreadful end. No one on earth can bring us a spark of comfort by telling us that he'll come back. The day for that is gone for ever.' 10

'Odyssey' Book 1, lines 146–168

Explain how Homer shapes his audiences opinion of the Suitors.
Make four points and support each point with reference to
passage A. (8)

Task 3:

Finally, we would like you to familiarise yourself with the city of ancient Rome. Watch this documentary and create a poster or fact file on what you learn about ancient Rome:

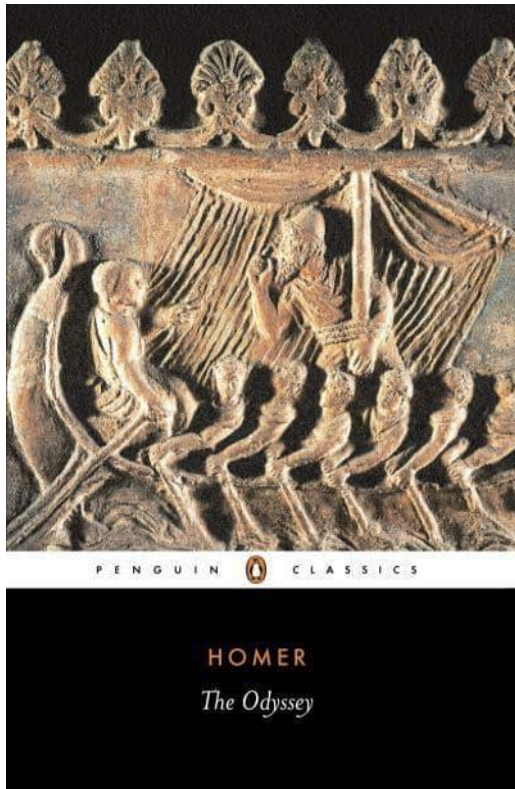
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7CmaEuvwjU&t=1028s>

For those who want a bit more...

As an extension task, it would be great if you could get hold of a copy of either or both Stephen Fry books *Mythos* and *Heroes* and read them as we dip into myth fairly frequently on the course. You might also like to buy a copy of Mary Beard's *SPQR* or Tom Holland's *Dynasty* to help familiarise yourself with ancient Rome.

Please purchase a copy of the *Odyssey* as soon as you can and start reading it! The translation we will be using is as follows and it is very important that this is the copy you purchase/obtain: Publisher: Penguin Classics. Translated by: E V Rieu

It looks like this:



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Will this work be marked and when is it due?

A: This work may not be formally marked but will be discussed during your first classes with us in September. Just bring along what you have completed to your first timetabled sessions.

Q: I am not sure if I have the answers right, what should I do?

A: Don't worry, just have a go at getting something down and bring it along to the lesson where we can talk it through. There is no need to get anxious about the tasks, we are not expecting you to know everything before you arrive but are interested in your ideas and what you have found easy or difficult as it helps us support you right from the beginning.

Q: Do I have to do it?

A: Flying Start is not compulsory, but many students find it useful for getting them used to thinking about subjects at the next level. Early classroom sessions will also reflect on some of the Flying Start activities.