

New: GCSE Classical Civilisation



Qualification: GCSE OCR

Outline of the course: Thematic Component: *Myth and Religion.*

Many learners come to Classical Civilisation with a love of mythology and this forms a central part of the thematic component. Learners will study myth regarding the roles of Gods and heroes in the founding of Athens and Rome. We will also look at the role of religion in the everyday life of ancient Greeks and Romans. The study of temples, festivals, death and sacrifice is a fascinating look at the ancient world.

Percy Jackson fans will already know about the gods. Now they can dip into the origins of these much loved tales.



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Literature and Culture Component: *The Homeric World.*

The culture half of the topic covers the ancient civilisation known as the Mycenaean Age. We will study some of the main Mycenaean sites and the items that made them so remarkable.

In the Literature half you will read 5 sections from Homer's epic work, *The Odyssey*. You will read some of the most important parts of *The Odyssey* including the story of the giant Polyphemus and the witch Circe and Odysseus' bloody encounters with his rivals. Not for the fainthearted!



Course assessment:

Paper 1: Myth and religion Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. 50% of the GCSE.

Paper 2: Homeric World 1 hour 30 minutes. 50% of the GCSE.



Additional information: This subject does not require any prior Ancient Greek or Latin to access it- all sources are translated into English. Students should be aware that the course does require good literacy skills and there will be a lot of reading.

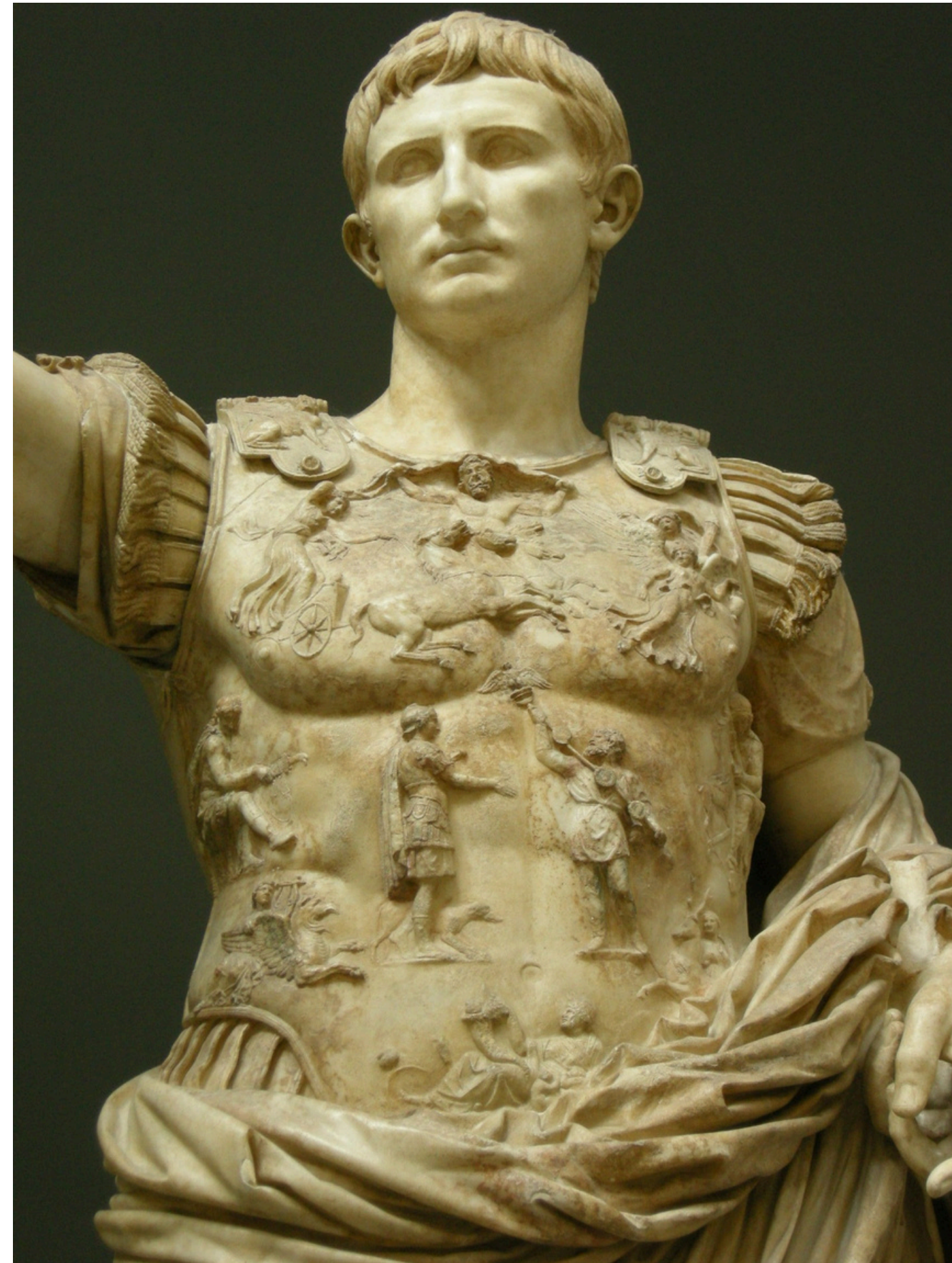
Further study: Classics is part of a rich academic discipline and will prepare students for further and higher education.

Careers: Studying a classics provides you with skills relevant for several sectors, including museum and gallery work, local and national government, legal, teaching and academia, media and broadcasting, film and television, banking, consultancy and marketing.

Paper 1 Highlights:

Links between myth and portrayal of power, including how and why myth might be presented in art to demonstrate power, and the significance of where it was sited/displayed.

For example the statue of Augustus Caesar in Rome or the Parthenon in Greece.

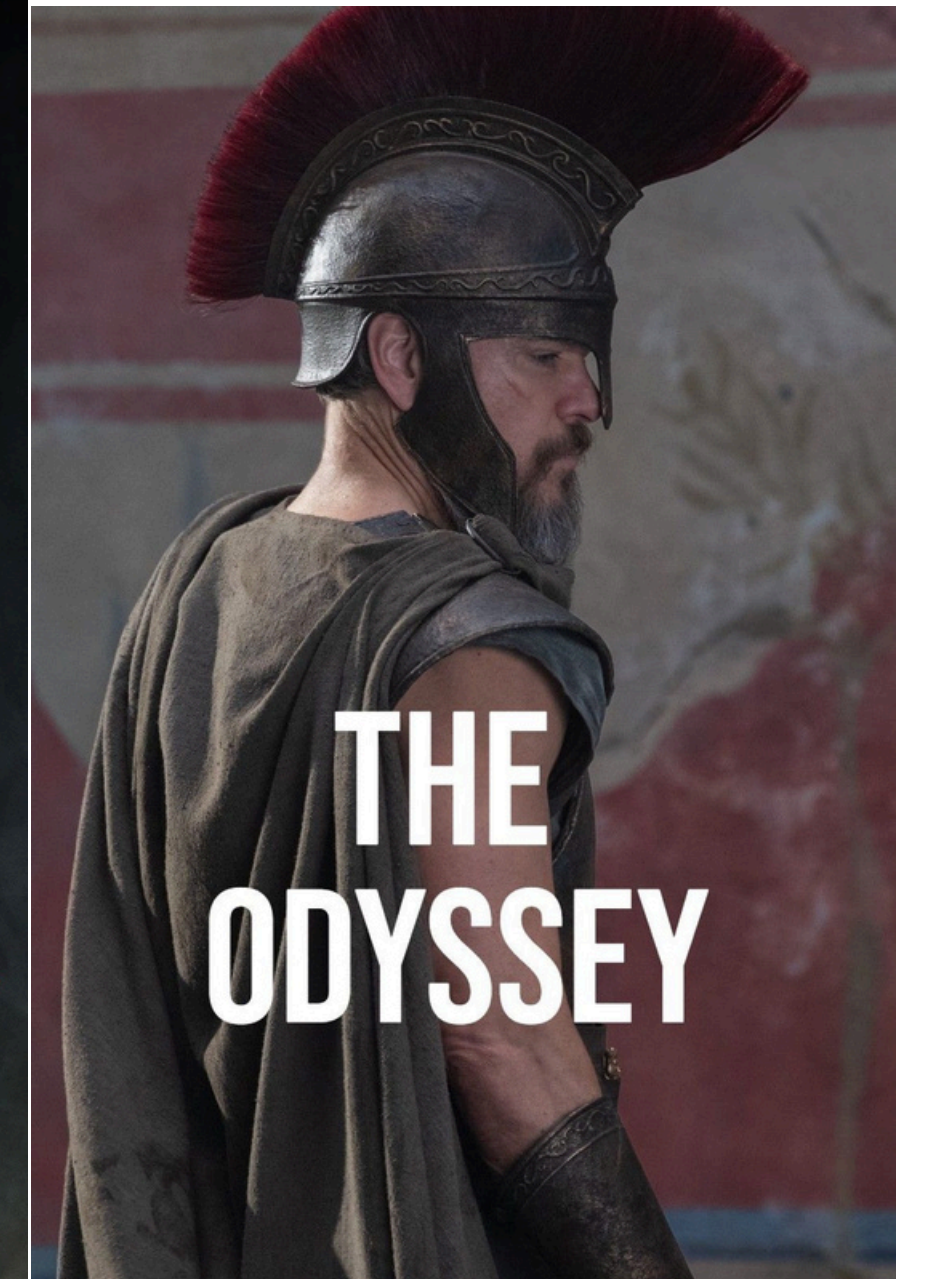


Paper 2 Highlights:

The Odyssey

One of the first and greatest stories ever told. The sirens, faithful Penelope, a giant man eating Cyclops, a visit to Hades. This tale never ages.

We are especially grateful to Christopher Nolan for making his cinematic version to coincide with Ratton's first teaching of Classics.

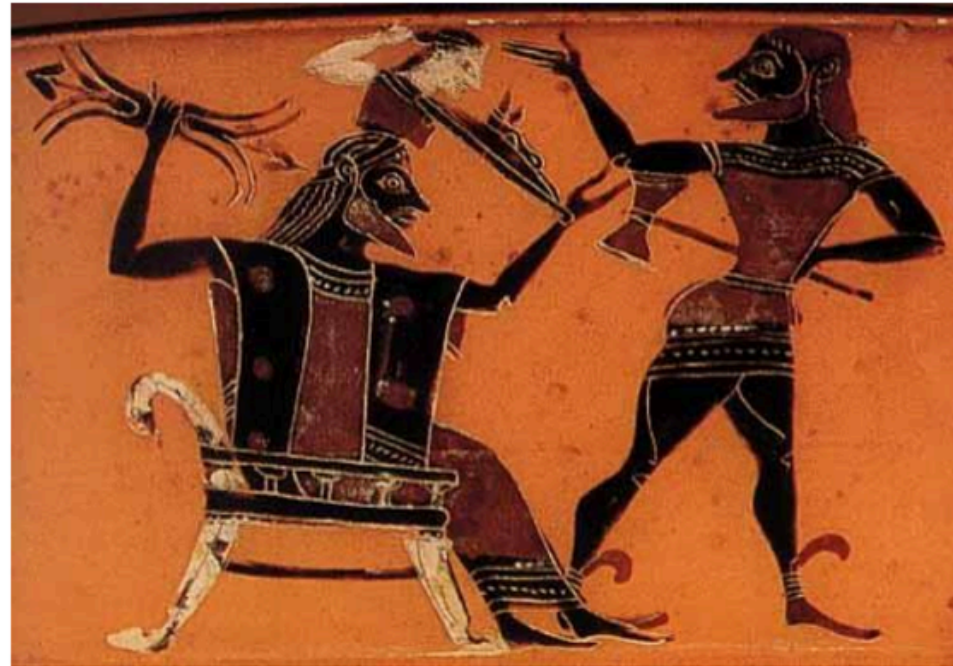


Classics: Sample exam questions- Paper 1

2

Section A

Source A: Black figure vase painting depicting the birth of a goddess



Who are two gods shown on this vase, and how do you know this from the picture?

A: Zeus- as he is holding a thunderbolt

Athena- as she is being born from his head and holding her shield

Hephaestus- he is holding his smiths hammer.

Answer one of the following questions.

You should refer any appropriate Classical sources you have studied to support your argument and make comparisons between Greece and Rome.

EITHER

24. Who had more enjoyable festivals, the Greeks or the Romans? Justify your response.

[15]

OR

25. Who were more effective in using symbols of power, the Greeks or the Romans? Justify your response.

[15]

In the longer questions you show off your evaluation skills by comparing what you know about Greek and Roman Culture.

Classics: Sample exam questions- Paper 2

Select three features of this armour, and describe how each is different from other examples of Mycenaean armour. (3)



“The story of Circe has everything needed to entertain the reader.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use the source as a starting point and your own knowledge in your answer. (8)

Candidates might show knowledge and understanding by mentioning men are changed into pigs, Hermes aids Odysseus with moly, Odysseus rescues his men, Odysseus sleeps with Circe, Circe shows xenia to the crew, Elpenor falls from the roof

**As this is the first time Ratton
is offering Classics GCSE please
do contact Ms.Bryden with
any further questions.**

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