

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>