

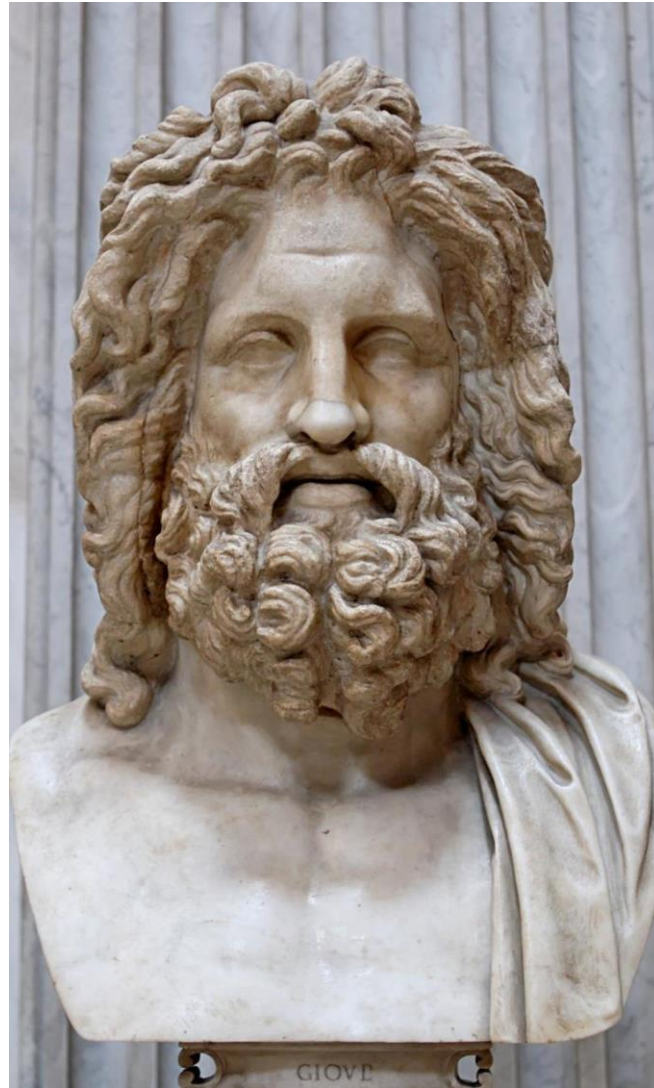
Classics Summer Introduction

Workbook

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Hello! Welcome to Classical Civilisation, or as we refer to it, Classics, at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge. The aim of this booklet is to introduce you to some aspects of Greek culture, with the intention to prepare you for studying with us at A-Level. The activities and information based through this workbook will help you understand the context of the modules you will study in Year 12 and Year 13.

In the beginning.....

While you have probably heard of Zeus, the ancient Greeks believed that he wasn't the first King of the Gods – instead there was a whole story about how Zeus became King of the Gods.

Activity – Watch this YouTube video; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5V8pJGWk-HI>

Who are the following characters?

Gaia -

Uranus (Ouranos) –

Kronos –

What happened to Kronos?




Why do you think Uranus and Kronos acted as they did? Is there a criticism regarding behaviour here?




So Zeus wasn't the original King of the Gods – he was the third!





It's quite interesting that the original God was actually a goddess; indeed many ancient cultures have female divinities at the centre of their worship – but perhaps Gaia's replacement by Zeus shows a reflection of Male authority in society replacing female...



The Olympians –

Do some research on the following gods; collectively they are known as the Olympians!

Greek	Roman	Image	Functions and attributes
<u>Zeus</u>	<u>Jupiter</u>		
<u>Hera</u>	<u>Juno</u>		
<u>Poseidon</u>	<u>Neptune</u>		

<u>Demeter</u>	<u>Ceres</u>		
<u>Athena</u>	<u>Minerva</u>		
<u>Apollo</u>	<u>Phoebus</u>		
<u>Artemis</u>	<u>Diana</u>		

<u>Ares</u>	<u>Mars</u>		
<u>Aphrodite</u>	<u>Venus</u>		
<u>Hephaestus</u>	<u>Vulcan</u>		
<u>Hermes</u>	<u>Mercury</u>		

<u>Hestia</u>	<u>Vesta</u>		
<u>Dionysus</u>	<u>Bacchus</u>		

Did you notice anything about the “12” Olympians listed above? Why are there 13?! Look into the Hestia/Dionysus situation at this website <https://ancientgreekmyth.weebly.com/hestia.html>

Another god that you might have expected to see listed as one of the Olympians is Hades. Use the links below to find out as much as you can about Hades and the Underworld;

<https://greekgodsandgoddesses.net/gods/hades/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMeNMdLMVNO>

<https://www.theoi.com/Khthonios/Rhadamanthys.html>

<https://www.theoi.com/Khthonios/Erinyes.html>

https://www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Places/The_Underworld/the_underworld.html

Who or what are the following?

Cerberus -

The Styx -

The three judges -

The Furies -

Elysium -

Tartarus -

Charon -



Hades and Persephone

Poor Hades may have been King of the Underworld – but he was lonely; he wanted a bride! Watch the video and make some notes on what happens with Hades and Persephone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY8W9PMiuTM>

What do you think this story might be an attempt to explain?

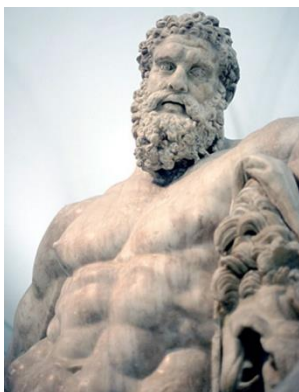


As you can see, myths and the divine were key parts of Greek culture and society. The Greeks knew of a series of stories that involved the gods fighting with other beings (like the Titans and the Amazons), with each other, and using mere mortals to settle their scores, and a great deal of Greek cultural life was based around the telling, and modifying, of these stories. Semi-divine characters such as Herakles, Achilles, and Theseus allowed the Greeks of the fifth-century BC to make a human connection to the gods and their myths, while foreign characters such as the Amazon Queen Penthesilea and the witch Medea highlighted the superiority of the Greek way of life. Conduct some brief research into each of these five characters. Who were they? Where were they from? What stories were connected to them?

Achilles:



Herakles:



Theseus:



Penthesilea:



Medea:



The following are good places to start:

<https://www.greekmythology.com/>

<https://www.theoi.com/>

<https://www.britannica.com/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Myths such as these were essential to Greek culture and to their understanding of the past. *Why* though? What was it about these supernatural stories that was so important? It might help if you compared some of them to more modern, British myths. What messages do the following British myths present to the listener?

1) Robin Hood.

2) King Arthur and the Round Table.

The Greeks used myths to help explain the past, especially things such as the creation of cities like Athens and Sparta, but also to explain events that they could not otherwise understand. Not just things traditionally associated with gods, like lightning, but also big events such as clashes between cities and between the Greeks and other nations and races. The world's first surviving historian, Herodotus, made various links to myth in order to explain the great victory the Greeks won in their battles against the Persian Empire in the late sixth and early fifth centuries BC. The clash, the Persian Wars, helped to define what it really meant to be Greek in real, rather than mythological, terms, and also made the individual Greek cities (known as *Poleis*, from which we get words like *politics*) realise that the biggest threat to them was not some foreign conqueror, but their next door neighbours!

The Persian Wars form a significant part of one of your first year courses, the Invention of the Barbarian, so let's finish this introductory pack off with some research on that. You already know at least one word connected to the war: Marathon! Let's see what we can find out about this word, which, originally, was a small village of Athens and the site of the first big battle of the Persian Wars:

See if you can find out:

- 1) Where it is.
- 2) When the battle was fought, and what happened.
- 3) Names of people connected to the battle.

Marathon

Hint – look out for names like Herodotus, Miltiades, and Darius!

Probably most famous of the battles in the Persian Wars was the battle of Thermopylae, where the Spartan King Leonidas made his last stand. Not everything you saw in the film *The 300* is quite true, though, and will watch it to spot the errors! As a final task, see what you can find out about Thermopylae and Leonidas:

Thermopylae and Leonidas

Hint – look out for names like Xerxes, Ephialtes, and the Immortals!

You can find lots of details about Marathon, Thermopylae, and Leonidas at:

<https://www.livius.org/>

<https://www.ancient.eu/>

<https://www.wikipedia.org/> (we honestly don't mind people using this resource – it's generally very accurate and is a great place to start!)

And Finally...

The Greeks often told stories that combined religious, political and historical elements; and this was reflected in their actual physical world! Let's look at the town of Delphi.



Delphi

Delphi was a very important town to the

Greeks; in fact people came from all over the known world for a number of reasons. Use this website to do some research on Delphi and answer the questions below

<https://www.greeka.com/sterea/delphi/history/>

1. Which god was associated with Delphi? Why? What did this god establish at the site?
2. Who was the Pythia? Why did people travel from far afield to consult with her? Do you think the description of her makes her reliable?
3. Why did people travel to Delphi every four years?
4. What political group also met at Delphi?
5. Look at the Prophecy supposedly uttered by the Pythia to a man named Croesus. Croesus was king of a large empire -Lydia- and he was contemplating war against another mighty empire – The Persians; what do you think about the prophecy that was uttered?

“If Croesus goes to war, he will destroy a great empire.