



St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School Sixth Form

Year 11 Into Year 12 Transition Task

Subject: Classical Civilisation (OCR)

SMRT Sixth Form takes students from a wide range of schools who have studied a variety of GCSE syllabuses. We want to ensure that everybody is equally able to access the content of the A Level and so the following tasks give you a chance to ensure you are fully prepared.

Please bring the tasks that you have been able to complete with you to your Classical Civilisation lesson at the start of term.

To ensure you are ready to fully access the A Level Syllabus you should attempt these tasks:

Begin to look at some of the reading for the course. Start with Homer's *Odyssey*. You will need to get a specific edition- *The Odyssey*. E.V. Rieu, Penguin rev.ed. 1991 (ISBN 97801449912), You can access a copy from our Transition Task section on the website. It is a good idea to have your own copy as then you can mark the book with any comments that you think would help you.

Task 1: Greek Mythology: Names and Places Identify or describe as many of the following as possible. These are names that we will encounter in our study of *The Odyssey*.

Achilles	
Apollo	
Athena	
Calypso	
Circe	
Cyclops	
Hades	
Helios	
Heracles	
Hermes	
Ithaca	
Odysseus	
Penelope	
Poseidon	
Sirens	
Teiresias	

Task 2: Time to learn about Homer, the tremendous author of *The Odyssey*. After researching on the websites, create a journal entry from the perspective of someone who has just met

Homer in person. What did he look like? What type of personality did he have? Did you like him? Was he annoying? What did you talk about? Use these links below to find out everything you can about Homer:

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer>
- <https://www.biography.com/writer/homer>
- <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/who-was-homer/>

Task 3: Read Book One of the Odyssey (available on the SMRT website) & answer these questions:

1. Who is Odysseus, and why is he not at home in Ithaca at the start of the book?
2. What problem is taking place in Odysseus' household in Ithaca?
3. Who is Telemachus, and how does he feel about the situation in his home?
4. Which goddess shows special concern for Odysseus, and what does she want to happen?
5. In what disguise does Athena visit Telemachus?
6. How does Telemachus treat Athena (as Mentos) when she arrives, and what does this suggest about him?
7. What advice does Athena give Telemachus about dealing with the suitors?
8. What does Athena encourage Telemachus to do regarding his father?
9. How does Penelope react to the bard Phemios' song, and why does it upset her?
10. What does Telemachus' response to Penelope reveal about his developing character?
11. How are the suitors presented in Book 1? Give details about their behaviour and attitudes.
12. What role do the gods play in the opening of the book, particularly in the council on Olympus?
13. How does the theme of hospitality (xenia) appear in Telemachus' interaction with Athena?

Task 4: To give you a foundational understanding of the history of Rome these brief lessons from Khan Academy to create the following pieces of work:

1. Create a timeline of the history of Rome
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/worldhistory/ancient-medieval/roman-empire/v/overview-of-the-roman-empire>
2. Create annotated diagrams of the social and political structure of Rome (include things like roles, privileges, etc) <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/ancient-medieval/romanempire/v/roman-social-and-political-structures> & <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/ancient-medieval/romanempire/a/roman-republic>

Task 5: Read through this article <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-artcivilizations/roman/beginners-guide-rome/a/introduction-to-ancient-roman-art> and make notes on:

- The influence of Greek art on Rome
- The style of art in Republican Rome

- The style of art in Imperial Rome

To get more into what this subject is about at a higher level and if you have any spare time!

Academic Reading: If you have access to the following books or the means to purchase them, we recommend the following:

- Beard, M. (2016) SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome, Profile Books
- Augustus Caesar D. Shotton ISBN 0-415-31936- 6
- The Open University – Course They are running a free introductory course on the Classical World. This course will be very useful if you have not studied Classics at GCSE.
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-thearts/classical-studies/introducing-the-classicalworld/content-section-0?active-tab=descriptiontab>
- The following documentaries are available on YouTube. They will boost your knowledge of the Classical World and engage with academics.
 - Prof Mary Beard – Ultimate Rome Episode 1 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL_acQHNS-o
 - Episode 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urJbBsdvjKU>
 - Episode 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5alrhQKGOjg>
 - Episode 4 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvBghnYyiR4>
 - Prof Mary Beard – Meet the Romans Episode 1 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rggk_H3jEgw
 - Episode 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JFw8M4PBUl>
 - Prof Andrew Wallace-Hadrill – Ancient Cities Athens - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNqOOOiGgcY>
 - Rome - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdYRgjLurTs>