



Portland  
Place  
School

# Sixth Form A Level Classical Civilisation Transition Booklet

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Name:

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# Welcome to Classical Civilisation at Portland Place

This Transition work is designed to help you to bridge the gap between your GCSE studies and AS/A Level.

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## Why do Transition work?

Preparation is crucial for studying A levels. A levels require you to be an independent learner. Although you have fewer subjects, A levels require different study skills and the volume of work is greater due to the increased demand of depth and detail. The exercises in this booklet will ensure that you are ready for the exciting challenges of becoming an A level student in September. It may be necessary to complete some of the tasks on separate sheets of paper. You have the choice of either typing or handwriting your responses. Each subject will be slightly different, but they will all require you to use the skills you will need for A level: independent enquiry; evidence of reading around the subject and enthusiasm and interest.

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## Is Transition work assessed?

Yes. In September, your subject teacher will ask you for your Transition work and it will be assessed. Teachers will be able to diagnose your strengths and weaknesses and begin to support and challenge you in a more targeted way.

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**You must bring all the work with you to your first Year 12  
Classical Civilisation lesson in September.**



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# Classical Civilisation

AS Level/ Year 1

Units 1 and 2 make up the AS qualification or 1st Year Study of the A Level qualification.

## Unit 1:

### The World of the Hero

Homer's *Odyssey*

(1 ½ hour written exam **65 marks** and **50%** of AS level)

The poems of Homer were considered by the Greeks themselves to be a foundation of Greek culture, standing as they do at the beginning of the Western literary canon. This component provides learners with the opportunity to appreciate the lasting legacy of these works and to explore their attitudes and values. The epics of Homer, with their heroes, gods and exciting narratives, have been in continuous study since their conception, and remain popular with learners and teachers today.

#### Key Topics:

- Literary techniques and composition
- The heroic world: characterisation and themes
- The social, cultural and religious context

## Unit 2:

### Culture and the Arts

Imperial Image (Augustus Caesar)

(1 ½ hour written exam **65 marks** and **50%** of AS level)

The idea of a politician 'spinning' their public image is one which is very familiar from our contemporary media; and so this exploration of a Roman politician and his successful propaganda campaign. Augustus Caesar was, through careful management of public opinion, able to convince a society that was fundamentally anti-monarchical to turn away from its republican values and to accept one-man rule. Through literature and visual/material culture of

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the period, you examine the ways in which Augustus conveyed his personal brand to all social classes of Rome.

**Key Topics:**

- Divi filius
- *imperator*
- 'Augustus'
- Culture hero
- *pater patriae*
- Later representations

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# Year 11 to Year 12 Classical Civilisation AS/A-Level Transition Unit

**See, Hear, Read and Visit:** Select one suggestion from each of the see, hear, read and visit sections and answer the questions that follow.



## See

- Meet the Romans, Mary Beard
- In Search of the Trojan War, Michael Wood
- Ancient Rome: The Rise and Fall of an Empire, Nick Murphy
- I, Caesar - The Collection, Phil Grabsky

## Hear

- Iliad Audiobook <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2O422Gf0Tg> (this is just part 1! It would have taken almost 24 hours to recite the Iliad. If you run out of time you could listen to an abridged version instead).

## Visit

- British Museum
  - Ground Floor – Room 12-23(Greek and Roman Art and Architecture – pay particular attention to the Parthenon Galleries)
  - Level Three - Room 69-73 (Greek and Roman Life)

## Read

- Augustus (63 BC - AD 14) [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/augustus.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/augustus.shtml)

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- 'Augustus' Gaius Julius Octavius' (63 BC - AD 14)  
<http://www.roman-empire.net/emperors/augustus-index.html>

**Questions: See, Hear, Read and Visit**

1. What is Classical Civilisation (100 words)?
2. Outline and explain why Classical Civilisation is important (500 words).
3. Analyse the impact Classical Civilisation has had on contemporary society (500 words).