

A Level Classical Civilisation Bridging Work

Do drop Dr Millington an email at Millington-A@beaconsfieldhigh.school if you have any queries, or if you would like suggestions for further reading on any specific topics

Books you need to buy:

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated by E. V. Rieu, revised by D. C. H. Rieu (Penguin)
- Homer, *The Iliad*, translated by E. V. Rieu, revised by D. C. H. Rieu (Penguin) [or any other good translation, since this is not a set text – Martin Hammond’s prose translation is excellent, as are the verse translations by Robert Fagles and Emily Wilson]
- Virgil, *The Aeneid*. It is worth spending a bit of time in a good bookshop (e.g. Blackwells in Oxford or Gower St Waterstones) browsing and selecting a translation that you find engaging. David West’s Penguin translation is the one recommended by OCR and quoted in the exam paper but is rather dry. Frederick Ahl’s Oxford World’s Classics translation has the non-trivial advance of a full index. Robert Fagles’ verse translation (also in Penguin) is energetic and engaging.
- Richard Jenkyns, *Classical Epic: Homer and Virgil*
- Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome*
- Cassius Dio, *The Reign of Augustus*, translated by Ian Scott-Kilvert (Penguin)
- Robert Hancock Jones, James Renshaw, and Laura Swift, *Greek Theatre and Imperial Image* (OCR textbook, published by Bloomsbury)

Required reading before you start the course:

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated by E. V. Rieu, revised by D. C. H. Rieu (Penguin)
- Matthew D.H. Clark, *Augustus, First Roman Emperor: Power, Propaganda and the Politics of Survival* [or an equivalent narrative history, e.g. *SPQR* by Mary Beard]. This can be provided on request.
- Suetonius, *Life of Augustus* – there’s a decent translation here:
https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Suetonius/12Caesars/Augustus*.html#1
- You must also watch Michael Wood’s brilliant documentary *In Search of the Trojan War*, which is a terrific introduction to the world of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya-OWg7BL6s&list=PL2vJ5Cg-wlPxcTvzl0fTKQOuZk4pe4RuA>

Highly recommended pre-course reading:

- Virgil, *The Aeneid*, translated by David West (Penguin) [Or one of the other translated recommended above. You must ensure that you have finished reading this by the end of the Easter holiday]
- Homer, *The Iliad*, translated by E. V. Rieu, revised by D. C. H. Rieu (Penguin)
[The *Odyssey* functions as a sequel to the *Iliad*. Don’t be afraid to skip/skim through Book 2]

and some of the more repetitive battle sequences. Pay close attention to the roles played by the gods]

- Cassius Dio, *The Reign of Augustus*, translated by Ian Scott-Kilvert (Penguin)
- Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, *Augustan Rome*

Recommended Extension Reading:

- Jasper Griffin, *Homer on Life and Death**
- Ronald Syme, *The Roman Revolution*
- Paul Zanker, *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus* (trans. A. Shapiro)
- Moses Finley, *The World of Odysseus*
- Jenny Strauss Clay, *The Wrath of Athena: Gods and Men in the Odyssey*
- W.B. Stanford, *The Ulysses Theme*
- Brooks Otis, *Virgil: A Study in Civilized Poetry* (especially chapters 6 & 7)**

*Not to be read until you have finished both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Griffin's text includes a lot of untranslated Greek, but he always gives the book and line references, so just read it with Rieu's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* at your elbow.

**Do not read this until you have finished the *Aeneid*.

Recommended Podcasts:

In Our Time

- The Roman Republic
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y26w>
- The Augustan Age
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00kftmw>
- The *Iliad*
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bh5x1y>
- The *Odyssey*
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y297>
- The *Aeneid*
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9c1>
- Horace
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00014jt>
- Ovid
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000vhk5> Natalie Haynes Stands Up for

the Classics

- The *Iliad*
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000d7p2>

- The Odyssey
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001brj5>
- Penelope
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jtn0>
- Virgil
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03zy1c6>
- Suetonius
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000czlf>
- Horace
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bd7zhw>
- Livy
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bfxm4>

Our current Y12 students recommend:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-iE-LlpCME>

Odyssey TV movie

[The Odyssey 1997 - Homer](#)