

Activities to prepare you for **A-Level Classical Civilisation**



New College Durham

What is Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation is the study of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome over a period of approximately 2000 years (1500BC-500AD).

Heroes and the ancient world

Myths and storytelling were a huge part of Greek and Roman culture. These myths were often centred around heroes embarking on great adventures.

**Can you think of any heroes from books, film or TV?
What makes them heroic?**



Task 1

Watch the following clip discussing Joseph Campbell's explanation of the heroic journey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1Zxt28ff-E>

Explain the following aspects of a hero's journey using examples from modern fictional heroes.

1. A call to action
2. Difficult trials
3. Darkest moment/death/rebirth/journey to the underworld
4. Special power/weapon

For example, a call to action could be when Harry Potter receives his invitation to attend Hogwarts.

You can look to a variety of stories including:

- Harry Potter (JK Rowling herself studied classics!)
- The Hunger Games
- The Hobbit
- Lord of the Rings
- Comic book heroes

Task 2

Research the following Greek heroes

- Achilles
- Odysseus
- Hercules

Which of these Heroes fits the most with Campbell's definition of a hero? Explain your answer

Additional reading

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/309124-why-study-a-level-classical-civilisation-.pdf>

If you are interested in studying Classical Civilisation and would like any further information, please email lisa.temple@newdur.ac.uk

