



Preparing for Ancient History GCSE

“A people without the knowledge of their past History, is like a tree without its roots.”

Marcus Garvey

Welcome to your GCSE Ancient History taster document. If you choose Ancient History you will study four units, on which you will be tested at the end of year 11. The exam board is OCR and the units are:

- **The Persian Empire 550 B.C. – 465 B.C.**
- **Alexander The Great 356-323 B.C.**
- **Kings of Rome and the Early Republic**
- **Cleopatra: Rome and Egypt 69-30 B.C.**

Below are some suggestions to get you prepared. None of these are compulsory, but they will much help give you a taste of the course. They are mixtures of books (fiction and non-fiction), documentaries, films and podcasts.



Film and documentaries

One great way to get a sense of the different topics is through watching films and documentaries. Below is a list of suggestions for each topic. Remember there are lots more out there that you can find.

The Persian Empire 550 B.C. – 465 B.C.

- The Art of Persia (BBC iPlayer)
- 300 (2006)

Alexander the Great 356-323 B.C.

- Alexander (2004)
- In Footsteps of Alexander the Great

Kings of Rome and the Early Republic

- Gladiator (2000)
- Meet the Romans (BBC iPlayer)

Cleopatra: Rome and Egypt 69-30 B.C.

- Cleopatra (1963)
- Cleopatra a Time watch Guide (BBC4)



Be the Best Version of You



Books

Books are a great way to engage with history. Reading historical novels or the works of historians will give you a great sense of the period.

The Persian Empire 550 B.C. – 465 B.C.

- Persian Fire (Tom Holland)
- The Falcon of Sparta (Conn Iggulden)

Alexander the Great 356-323 B.C.

- Alexander the Great Paul Cartledge
- Alexander the Ends of the Earth (Valerio Massimo Manfredi)

Kings of Rome and the Early Republic

- SPQR (Mary Beard)
- Pompeii (Robert Harris)

Cleopatra: Rome and Egypt 69-30 B.C.

- Cleopatra the last queen of Egypt (Joyce Tyldesley)
- Anthony and Cleopatra (William Shakespeare)



Podcasts

If you enjoy listening to podcasts there are a lot out there that will help give you a sense of your GCSE topics. Below are some examples of the Podcasts you might like to listen to:

- Stand up for the Classics – A hilarious look at the myths and history of the ancient world
- “You’re Dead To Me” – BBC podcast with episodes covering many different aspects of history
- Hardcore History - Dan Carlin - first three episodes Kings of Kings



Be the Best Version of You