

Ancient History

Subject level A-level

Resource site www.wqe.ac.uk/tasteractivities

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Subject context Ancient History is the study of the civilisation of the Greeks and Romans in the period between 492BC and 128AD. During the course we will be focusing on the relations between Greek states such as Athens and Sparta and the war fought with the eastern superpower, Persia. We will also be looking in detail at the culture of the warlike Spartans.

In our Roman study, we will be investigating the lives, personalities and achievements of the first five Roman emperors; Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius (Caligula), Claudius and Nero, in the period between 31BC-68AD. We will also be looking in depth at the conquest of Britain and the gradual creation of a "Romano-British" society.

Ancient History is an excellent choice for students interested in the key events in the history of ancient Greece and Rome and the famous characters who lived at this time, such as Pericles, Leonidas, Cleopatra and Julius Caesar.

Estimated time required to complete activity 3 hours

Submission instructions Bring this work to your first Ancient History lesson.

Feedback Your work will help prepare you for our induction lessons and we will spend time discussing the themes exploring in this work.

Resources required Laptop (or pen and paper)
Internet (desirable not essential)

Assignment details

TASK 1

In the first part of the A level Ancient History course, you will learn about the Ancient world as it was in the period between 500BC -130AD and be introduced to some specialised vocabulary. To prepare for these lessons you should complete the following questions:

1. What is meant by the following terms? Please define them:

- Persians (ancient)
- Magna Graecia
- Forum (of a Roman city)
- Consul
- Archon
- Asia Minor
- Gaul

2. The Greeks and Romans considered themselves "civilised" and other people as "barbarians". What is a "barbarian"? In what ways do they differ from "civilised" people? How might the Greek and Romans have defined "civilisation"?

3. List 4 Greek and 4 Roman historical figures who have played an important role in the events of their day. Explain why you have picked them and why they are important. In your opinion, who made the greatest contribution to their society? Explain your view.

TASK 2

Create a timeline Greek and Roman History from 500BC to 150AD selecting the events that you think are the most important. You can do this any way you prefer, for example by creating a PowerPoint, a Word document, a movie or on paper. Don't forget to include reference to as many different aspects of culture as you can, such as: significant religious events, important inventions, the birth of famous people, the construction of famous monuments, etc

TASK 3

The Romans conquered a vast area of Europe, Africa and Asia Minor during their 1100+ years in existence. Having conquered a territory by military victory they would then "Romanise" it, forcibly changing the culture and lifestyle of the native people into something that reflected their own.

The following YouTube clip by Monty Python called: "What did the Romans ever do for us?" illustrates the changes made by the Romans to the countries they conquered.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7tvauOJMHo> (1 min 23)

Watch the clip and use it as a starting point to list the innovations that the Romans made in pursuit of “*Romanisation*”. What was “*Romanisation*”? What did the Romans invent that we still recognise today? What were the negative aspects of being conquered by the Romans?

Extension Activity

Using the list you have created above, produce a short essay, approximately 500 words in length, responding to the statement “*Romanisation benefitted the countries the Romans conquered*”.

Produce a balanced argument, using full English sentences and paragraphs, for and against this statement. Include relevant examples to support your arguments.