

WINDSOR SIXTH FORM SUMMER WORK



A Level Ancient History

Ancient Greece wasn't a unified country; there was no capital city nor one ruler who governed over the whole country. Instead, each city (or *polis*) was its own state and ruled itself, with its own customs and own laws. *i.e. Athens had its own democratic government, and Sparta was ruled by 2 kings!*

However, these city-states did share some similar religious and cultural beliefs, and mostly fought battles in the same way. We would like you to research these over the summer.

We won't be studying the myths in the A Level course, but religion was so central to Ancient Greek life that it's important to know these things!

The Greek gods

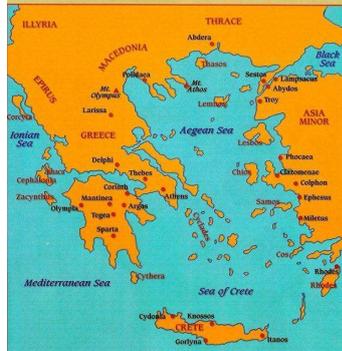
Ancient Greek religion was polytheistic [many gods, not one god]: Greek communities recognised many deities (both Gods and Goddesses). Most important of these seem to have been the Olympian deities (usually there were twelve of them, but not always the same twelve) who were said to live on Mount Olympus). By the fifth century BC, the Gods most commonly worshipped across Greece were **Zeus, Hera, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Poseidon, Aphrodite, Hermes, Hephaistos, Ares, Demeter and Hestia, who was sometimes replaced by Dionysus**. Another type of god was made up of those of the underworld, such as **Hades and his wife Persephone**.

- Can you research the roles and responsibilities of the gods/ goddesses in bold?

The Oracle at Delphi

- What was an oracle?

ANCIENT GREECE



- What was the *pythia* and what would happen when people visited her?

Hoplite and phalanx formation

- What was a Greek hoplite? How would he be dressed?
- What was the phalanx formation and how would it be used in battle?

Extra reading/films to watch

We will be studying the Spartans and the Persian war/Peloponnesian War in Year 12 so please feel free to research these topics ready for September!

Books

- *The Spartans* by Andrew Bayliss (academic, but readable)
- *The Spartans: An Epic History* by Paul Cartledge (university level but we will be using extracts in lessons)

Film: 300 (2006) What impression do you get of the Spartans?

Documentary: The Spartans- Channel 4 documentary by Bettany Hughes (type it in to YouTube)

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