

Scheme of Learning: Religion in the City

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gods and Goddesses	Heracles: Universal Hero	Religion in the City	Myth and the City	Festivals	Myths and Symbols of Power	Death and Burial	Journey to the Underworld

Topic Overview:

This is the third topic of the GCSE Classical Civilisations course, and the main aim is to provide a thorough understanding of how religion in Ancient Greece was practised. This topic takes the pupils' previous learning about Gods and Goddesses, and Heracles, and applies it to the practise of religion in Ancient Greece and Rome. The topic explores the role of priests and priestesses in religion, and the different rituals that accompany worship, with a particular focus on the importance of blood sacrifice. It also explores the physical structures that carried religious importance, with a particular focus on two Greek temples that link to the previous topics. The first is the Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens, a temple dedicated to Athena, and the second is the Temple of Zeus, which is dedicated to Zeus and, linking to the second topic, there are metopes of Heracles' twelve labours on the temple's frieze. There are two Roman temples that contrast against the Greek ones: Temple of Portunus and The Pantheon. This topic is the first one that is focused on actuality of religious practice and not just the Gods.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to build pupils' understanding and knowledge of how religion was practised in Ancient Greece and Rome. They focus on the temples themselves at first, before moving into the religious officials that oversaw such religious practices as blood sacrifice. There is a need to focus on the temples before the rituals as many of the rituals reference where they took place within a temple complex. By rooting pupils knowledge in how religious sanctuaries were structured, pupils are able to place the actual rituals much easier.

The first lesson looks at what a Ancient Greek sanctuary was. Pupils will learn about the importance of the sanctuary to Greek people, as well as exploring what the standard features of a sanctuary complex. The pupils will explore the sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi, which is not on the specification, but is a really good example to explore. The lessons move then to look at the role of priests and priestesses in the practice of religion. It looks at their roles and responsibilities, leading to their most important role in carrying out the blood sacrifice. Pupils need to have an understanding of the ritual and process of a blood sacrifice, and understand its communal role in Greek society. There is an opportunity here to explore an extract from The Odyssey, a book pupils will read in Year 11, which depicts a sacrifice, enabling pupils to apply their knowledge of sacrifices to it.

The next series of lessons explore the two prescribed case studies from Ancient Greece: The Parthenon and the Temple of Zeus at Olympia. Pupils explore the full sanctuaries of both temples, giving them greater context on their importance and significance. Interestingly, the two case studies link back to the previous two topics nicely. The Parthenon explores the myths of Athena, and the Temple of Zeus includes metopes depicting Heracles' labours.

At this stage, the topic switches to Roman religious practice, and follows a similar sequence of lessons as the Greek ones. The focus is on learning about Roman sanctuaries and the differences to Greek ones, before exploring the role of Roman priests. Again, pupils need to understand the role of the priest and their specific duties, particularly with blood sacrifice. There is once again an opportunity to introduce pupils to classical texts by exploring an extract on sacrifice from The Aeneid.

Finally, the lessons culminate with an exploration of the two prescribed case studies from Ancient Rome: The Pantheon and the Temple of Portunus. These are very different from their Greek counterparts, and are an insight into the differences between Greek and Roman religious practice.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Religion Lesson 1 – Overview
2	Religion Lesson 2 – The Sanctuary
3	Religion Lesson 3 – Greek Temple Design
4	Religion Lesson 4 – Priests
5	Religion Lesson 5 – Sacrifice
6	Religion Lesson 6 – Sacrifice (Odyssey)
7	Religion Lesson 7 – Acropolis of Athens
8	Religion Lesson 8 – Pericles
9	Religion Lesson 9 – Parthenon
10	Religion Lesson 10 – Ancient Olympia
11	Religion Lesson 11 – Myth of Oinomaus and Pelops
12	Religion Lesson 12 – Roman Sanctuary
13	Religion Lesson 13 – Roman Priests
14	Religion Lesson 14 – Vestal Virgins
15	Religion Lesson 15 – Roman Sacrifice
16	Religion Lesson 16 – Roman Sacrifice (Aeneid)
17	Religion Lesson 17 – Roman Temples
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Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	3. Knowledge Map: Religion in the City	Prescribed Sources:	3. Prescribed Sources: Religion in the City
	4. Knowledge Map: Religion in the City - Parthenon		
	5. Knowledge Map: Religion in the City – Temple of Zeus		
	6. Knowledge Map: Religion in the City – Roman Temples		

Assessment:

Knowledge:	20 question knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	Exam questions that focus on identifying a god/goddess, a section on Heracles, and a section on temples.

Supportive Reading:
