

A Level Classical Civilisation London Panathenena teachers' support materials

Overview:

The aims of the day are many, but principally the aim is to enrich the experience offered by the remarkable legacy of Greek antiquities in Britain. By combining collections, sites, a range of media and technology, students can more easily connect fragments, resurrecting statues and rebuilding walls from what little survives. From this, they can begin to appreciate the role of architecture in Ancient Greece, and question how architecture can aid understanding of Classical Civilisations.

Big questions:

- What makes Ancient Greek architecture so distinctive?
- How have others thought about Ancient Greek architecture? Why?
- Why have there been Greek revivals, and what has been their significance?
- How can a study of Greek architecture help us better understand Classical Greek culture?

Methods

The study resources are intended to be flexible, to be used before, during and after the study day. They can be used independently, but students will best experience the study day if led in groups.

There is a suggested route, modelled to some extent on the Athenian Panathenaia. This great ritual procession held every four years, depicted on the Parthenon frieze, ended in sacrificial offerings on the Acropolis. The suggested route starts at the RIBA, then reviews some of the great Greek Revival buildings of University College London, St Pancras New Church and the British Museum, and then climaxes with the collections of the British Museum. Chief to this, of course, are the galleries showcasing antiquities from the Parthenon and Erechtheum. However, other galleries are on the itinerary. These offer alternative experiences to the better known galleries. Often containing better preserved fragments, and with displays in different formats, they facilitate comparison.

There are eleven suggested stops on the route. All these destinations have images from the RIBA collections to enrich the exploration of these spaces / features. These attempt to contextualise fragments – to allow students to see surviving sections as but a part of a whole; they reveal how sites have changed, and how their interpretations have changed; they also attempt to compare later Greek Revival buildings with their original sources.

Many of the stops also have accompanying texts, a mixture of primary and secondary sources, which attempt to anchor the fragments. These offer alternative views; buildings in these descriptions tend to be read functionally, not stylistically. The great

temples are depicted as ritual foci, not merely aesthetic experiences. The modern gallery setting is thus challenged.

Each stop has a question(s) to help focus the students. These are deliberately broad, and should engender discussion. Discussion and debate, not note-taking, are central to the study day. The images and questions can, of course, be revisited at a later date.

The study day route should take around 3-4 hours to complete. It can also, of course, be experienced without ever leaving the classroom.

Materials

- Podcast – images, audio texts and questions (available shortly)
- Image galleries – available to be downloaded and printed
- Texts – available to be downloaded and printed
- Map of route – available to be downloaded and printed

Suggested route

Place / Room number	Image description	Image No	TEXT	Question / Action
RIBA HQ 66 Portland Place	RIBA Exterior	1a		<p>Introduction & BIG Questions</p> <p>What makes ancient Greek architecture so distinctive?</p> <p>How have others thought about ancient Greek architecture? Why?</p> <p>Why have there been Greek revivals?</p> <p>How can a study of Greek architecture help us better understand Classical Greek culture?</p>
	RIBA Interior	1b		
	The Acropolis general view	1c		
	Panathenaia– Parthenon Frieze drawing by Charles Nicholson (1890)	1d		
	Sculpture of Perikles	1e		
	Map of route	1f		
University College London The Great Court	Great Portico	2a	Vitruvius on Temple design Book III chapter 1 (4 paragraphs)	<p>Climb up to the steps to the portico. What do you think of this architecture? What is it trying to communicate?</p> <p>How does the architecture of University College by Wilkins fit with Vitruvius' description</p>
	Temple of Zeus Olympios	2b		
St Pancras New Church	General view of St Pancras Church (1819- 1822)	3a		How does the architecture of St Pancras church compare to University College?
	Interior view of St Pancras Church	3b		

Look carefully. What were the architects (the Inwoods) trying

	Detail of St Pancras Church porch	3c		
	Details of Erechtheum porch	3d		
	Tower of the Winds and Acropolis, Athens	3e		
	Tower of the Winds study by Revett 1762	3f		
	Tower of the Winds frieze detail	3g		
British Museum arrival	General view	4a		<p>Walk through the portico (columned area) What are the key elements of this architecture?</p> <p>How does the architecture make you feel?</p> <p>Why do you think Smirke (the architect) choose the building to be in the style of Greek architecture?</p>
	View of portico	4b		
	Detail of Ionic order by Smirke	4c		
	Entrance interior	4d		
	Great Court	4e		
	British Museum Ground Plan	4f		
Nereid Monument (Room 17)	General View of the Monument	5a		<p>What do you think of this monument and its sculptures?</p> <p>What's confusing about this? Why is this important?</p>
	Detail of frieze	5b		
	Detail of friezes - town	5c		
Bassae Sculptures (Room 16)	Temple of Apollo, Bassae (1960)	6a		<p>Look up from the bottom of the stairs. These are remains from the Temple of Bassae, designed by the architect of the Parthenon, Iktinos. How can these fragments help you better understand the Parthenon?</p>
	Bassae Frieze detail	6b		

	Bassae Frieze detail	6c		
The Parthenon (Room 18) The exterior architecture – the pediments and metopes	General View of the Parthenon now	7a		<p>What are your first impressions of the Parthenon gallery and sculptures?</p> <p>What is here? What is missing? Why?</p> <p>(Compare this to the Nereid Monument)</p> <p>Look closely at the pediment sculptures. How would you describe them? What surprises you?</p>
	Plan of the Parthenon	7b		
	Drawing of the Parthenon by Stuart	7c		
	Reconstruction of the Parthenon by Cockerell	7d		
	Photograph of the Parthenon unrestored			
	Parthenon details of columns	7e		
	Parthenon drawing of elevation details	7f		
The Parthenon Frieze (Room 18)	British Museum image of the frieze	8a	John Mckean: 'Looking at the Parthenon' Section on 'The Great Panathenaia'	<p>Who exactly is shown on the frieze?</p> <p>How are they shown?</p> <p>Choose a part of the frieze and sketch this.</p> <p>What surprises you about the frieze?</p> <p>How does this help us understand Ancient Athens?</p>
	Nicholson study of the Cavalry	8b		
	Burges study of the metopes and colour	8c		

	Photograph of remains of the frieze in Athens	8d		
The Parthenon inside	Pallas Athene Nashville	9a	Pausanius Description of the Parthenon	What do you think the interior of the Parthenon would have been like? Use the plan and the description by Pausanius
The Erechtheum (Room 19)	British Museum caryatid from the Erechtheum	10a	Pausanius on the Erechtheum	Look carefully at the plan, column and caryatid. How is the Erechtheum different to the Parthenon? What were the sculptors trying to achieve with the caryatids? Why have later architects and their patrons (like the Inwoods at St Pancras) been attracted to the Erechtheum?
	British Museum Column from the Erechtheum	10b	John McKean on the Erechtheum	
	Plan of the Erechtheum	10c		
	View of the Erechtheum by Athenian Stuart	10d		
	General view of the Erechtheum 1880	10e		
	View of the Erechtheum east porch	10f		
	Detail of the Erechtheum Ionic order	10g		
	North porch of the Erechtheum	10h		
	Detail of the Erechtheum caryatids	10i		

Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (Room 21)	Imagined view of the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos by Fischer von Erlach (1721)	11 a		<p>Look carefully at the remaining fragments of the Mausoleum. How does the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus compare to the other buildings you have seen so far?</p> <p>Why do you think the architect Hawksmoor was so keen to model the tower of St George's Bloomsbury on this?</p>
	Horse from the Mausoleum	11b		
	Figure of Mausoleus	11c		
	St George's Bloomsbury general	11d		
	St George's Bloomsbury detail of tower	11e		
Summary				<p>How can a study of Greek architecture help us better understand Classical Greek culture?</p>