STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

Western Civilization I — High School Course with CLEP Preparation

The ancient Near East through the mid-1600s supplies the ideas and institutions later Western history builds on.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
1.0 credit	**120 h**	**26.5 h**	**93.5 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 1.0-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	reading, review and writing

26.5 h StudyWalks (5 h of lessons, 14.5 h of lectures, 6.8 h of quizzes and exams) + **93.5 h** suggested offline study = **120 h**. 545 lessons in 18 units; prepares for the CLEP Western Civilization I exam.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**The Origins of Civilization and Mesopotamia** Before Mesopotamia · Rivers, cities, kings · Belief, learning, law · War and empire · Three procedures · The unit's hardest question	20	33 min
2	**Egypt and the Bronze and Iron Age Near East** The river that behaved · The Old Kingdom · Middle Kingdom to empire · The Bronze Age world · Assyria and after · Traders, coins, and the alphabet · The Hebrews · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	28	46 min (2 parts)
3	**Archaic Greece, Persia, and the Greek Wars** Greece after the Near East · The polis and one culture · Hoplites, tyrants, and Sparta · Athens to democracy · Persia rises · How Persia ruled · The Persian Wars · Empire and the long war · Five procedures · The unit's capstone	34	54 min (2 parts)
4	**The Classical Age of Greece** Athens at its height · Who was left out · Humanism in drama and science · The invention of history · Nature or custom: four answers · Art and the edge of the world · Reading and classifying · Comparing and reading a passage · The unit's capstone	26	44 min (2 parts)
5	**The Hellenistic Age** Macedon and Philip · The conquest · Great King, and the end · Three kingdoms · Life in a Hellenistic city · Women and gods · Schools, science, and the Library · Map and classification · Comparison and sequence · The unit's capstone	26	44 min (2 parts)
6	**The Roman Republic** Site, legend, and Senate · The constitution and the orders · Italy by absorption · Carthage · The East, and how Rome worked · Society under the conquests · Murder and the sworn army · Caesar to Octavian · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	28	46 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
7	**The Roman Empire** The Principate · Peace, and who paid · The Julio-Claudians · Flavians, adoptive emperors, Severans · The frontiers · Beyond the frontiers · The army and the province · Stone, wealth, and law · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	28	46 min (2 parts)
8	**The Late Empire, Christianity, and the Germanic Invasions** Crisis and recovery · Constantine · Religions of the Empire · The Church takes shape · Two languages, and the monks · Athens and Jerusalem, and why Rome fell · The invasions · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	30	49 min (2 parts)
9	**Byzantium and Islam** The Romans who survived · Justinian · Saving the core · The north, the city, the learning · Icons, schism, golden age, decline · Islam's origins · The faith and the conquests · Succession and the Umayyads · Minorities under Islam · The Abbasids · Five procedures · The unit's capstone	40	1 h (2 parts)
10	**Early Medieval Europe** The Church after Rome · The road to salvation · Clan law and feudalism · England · The Franks to Charlemagne · Renaissance, partition, invaders · The Vikings · Feudalism as violence · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	28	47 min (2 parts)
11	**The High Middle Ages** Clermont and the First Crusade · Reconquista, later crusades, consequences · Church reform and the Islamic world · The economy · Feudal society and the kingdoms · The Church at its height · The school · Stone and an exception · Six procedures · The unit's capstone	42	1 h (2 parts)
12	**The Crises of the Late Middle Ages** The Mongols · Famine and plague · After the plague · The Hundred Years' War · The papacy's fall · Scripture over hierarchy, and the winners · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	26	43 min (2 parts)
13	**The Renaissance in Italy and Beyond** What, when, and why Italy · Business and trade · The politics of the cities · Print · Patronage and humanism · Writers · Artists · The North and the languages · Five procedures · The unit's capstone	36	54 min (2 parts)
14	**The New Monarchies and Renaissance Politics** Italy falls, the Renaissance moves · The tools of the new monarchy · Spain, England, France · The Empire and the East · Three procedures and the capstone	22	34 min
15	**The Reformations** A Church ripe, and faith alone · From the Theses to the peasants · Germany settled, and the radicals · Calvin · England, and the map · The Church's late, hard answer · Clergy remade, laity reconnected · Four procedures · The unit's capstone	25	43 min (2 parts)
16	**Europe Overseas and the Commercial Revolution, 1415 to 1648** Means and motives · Portugal east · Spain west · Exchange and conquest · Silver and New Spain · Society, prices, and the fixed pie · Amsterdam · Sugar and the North · Five procedures · The unit's capstone	30	49 min (2 parts)
17	**Wars of Religion and the Scientific Revolution, 1560 to 1648** Augsburg and the crisis · France · Philip II and his enemies · The Thirty Years' War · Westphalia and after · Method · The heavens · Body, mind, and after · Five procedures · The unit's capstone	36	55 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
18	**Capstone: Six Periods, One Exam** The exam's shape and six periods · Sample questions one to five · Sample questions six to ten · Joins, one to eight · Joins, nine to fifteen · Five abilities and the sourcing · The disclosure record · The whole course	40	1 h 8 min (2 parts)

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 18 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–9, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 120 questions, 90 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (80 of 120 correct, about 67%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested composite grade

Part	Weight
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	20%
Mid exam (best score)	20%
Final exam (percent correct)	60%

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets the grade. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 93.5 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the matching sections of an open textbook on the subject, review the unit quiz misses, and write a one-page unit summary. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	The Origins of Civilization and Mesopotamia	44 min	3 h 30 min	4 h 14 min
2	Egypt and the Bronze and Iron Age Near East	1 h 1 min	4 h 50 min	5 h 51 min
3	Archaic Greece, Persia, and the Greek Wars	1 h 13 min	5 h 50 min	7 h 3 min
4	The Classical Age of Greece	58 min	4 h 40 min	5 h 38 min
5	The Hellenistic Age	58 min	4 h 40 min	5 h 38 min
Lessons and lectures		**19 h 31 min**	**93 h 30 min**	**113 h 1 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**6 h 48 min**	**—**	**6 h 48 min**

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
6	The Roman Republic	1 h 2 min	4 h 55 min	5 h 57 min
7	The Roman Empire	1 h 1 min	4 h 50 min	5 h 51 min
8	The Late Empire, Christianity, and the Germanic Invasions	1 h 5 min	5 h 10 min	6 h 15 min
9	Byzantium and Islam	1 h 22 min	6 h 35 min	7 h 57 min
10	Early Medieval Europe	1 h 2 min	4 h 55 min	5 h 57 min
11	The High Middle Ages	1 h 23 min	6 h 40 min	8 h 3 min
12	The Crises of the Late Middle Ages	57 min	4 h 35 min	5 h 32 min
13	The Renaissance in Italy and Beyond	1 h 14 min	5 h 55 min	7 h 9 min
14	The New Monarchies and Renaissance Politics	46 min	3 h 40 min	4 h 26 min
15	The Reformations	56 min	4 h 30 min	5 h 26 min
16	Europe Overseas and the Commercial Revolution, 1415 to 1648	1 h 5 min	5 h 10 min	6 h 15 min
17	Wars of Religion and the Scientific Revolution, 1560 to 1648	1 h 14 min	5 h 55 min	7 h 9 min
18	Capstone: Six Periods, One Exam	1 h 30 min	7 h 10 min	8 h 40 min
Lessons and lectures		**19 h 31 min**	**93 h 30 min**	**113 h 1 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**6 h 48 min**	**—**	**6 h 48 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

StudyWalks finals are modeled on the CLEP exam blueprint in scope, format, and rigor. Scores are StudyWalks scores, not CLEP scores, and are not affiliated with or recognized by the College Board.

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