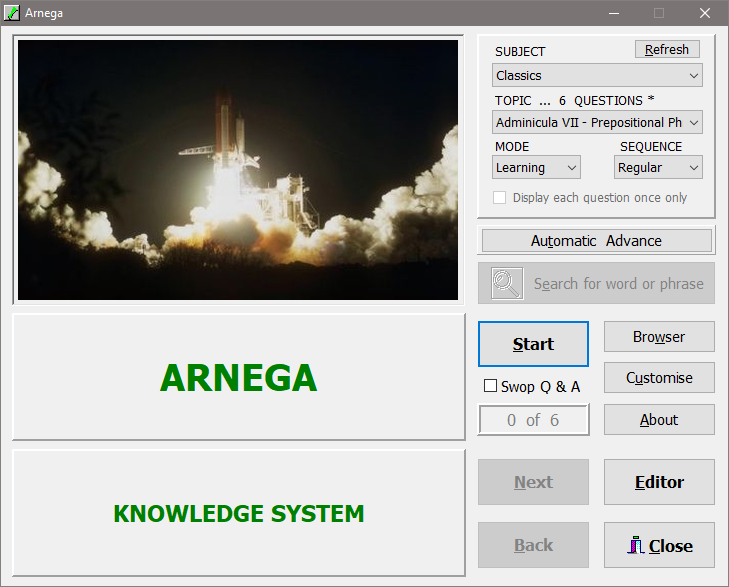
**Arnega – Knowledge System**

# INTRODUCTION

**Arnega** is a customisable computer-based educational program designed to enable you to create text-based Question-and-Answer files, optionally supported by graphics and other text files (collectively known as Media Files), and then to employ these topics for learning and self-testing. You can also download a few already-made topics from the *World of Classics* website www.worldofclassics.co.za/arnega.html.

The Arnega program is constantly being improved and updated. Please visit the website for the latest program and topic updates.



# INSTALLATION

1. Create a new folder on your local hard drive. Give this folder a suitable name.
2. Unzip the contents of **Arnega.zip** to the new folder.
3. Create a shortcut to the executable program file **Arnega.exe**.

## FILES AND FOLDERS

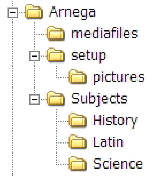
Three files are critical for Arnega to run, and they must all be located in the same folder (e.g. ‘Arnega’, as suggested above):

* **Arnega.exe** – Main program
* **Edit.exe** – Program to create and edit Subjects and Topics
* **Default.jpg** – Default picture file

The default picture file **default.jpg** MUST be present in the same folder as **Arnega.exe**. Note that this does not have to be the picture file as supplied: it can be any .jpg file. The point is that it must exist in the correct location.

Other files included in **Arnega.zip** are the following:

* **Arnega Manual.pdf** – this file
* **SPIonic\_Windows.ttf** – the Greek font which you must install if you wish to use Greek characters in the question/answer sets.
* **SPIonic\_Keyboard\_Map.pdf** – the SPionic keyboard mapping, for use with the standard QWERTY keyboard.

If you unzipped **Arnega.zip** / copied the contents of the **Arnega folder** correctly, the following sub-folders will be found below the main 'Arnega' folder on your local hard drive (see diagram alongside):

* **MediaFiles** - Contains picture files (\*.jpg and \*.bmp) and text files (\*.txt) for use with *ALL Subjects and Topics*.
* **Setup** - Contains various files and folders needed to register and customise Arnega.
* **Subjects** - Contains all the separate Subject sub-folders, and within them the Topics (text files containing the actual questions and answers).

Other sub-folders and files will automatically be created when Arnega is run for the first time, and the number of Subjects, Topics and MediaFiles will grow as the program gets used. Please DO NOT change the location or contents of these files and folders manually: most of the required manipulation can be done from within the program.

# ARNEGA.EXE

This is the ‘front end’ of the program, where you put your knowledge to the test, using a combination of **Modes** (i.e. Learning, Practice or Test) and **Sequences** (i.e. Regular or Random).

**Questions** are displayed in the **ARNEGA** panel situated below the graphic, and the corresponding **answers** in the **KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM** panel below that.

The Question / Answer file sets are created by clicking the **Editor** button. These files are stored as plain text files (**Topics**) within appropriately named folders (**Subjects**). The drop-down boxes for selecting Subjects and Topics are at the top right side. The basic Arnega download comes with a few Subjects and Topics already included, as an illustration of what is possible. Further Topics, together with their associated **Media Files** (optional picture / text files intended to support or illustrate the current question), may be downloaded from the website.

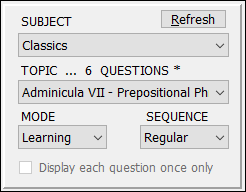
The ‘look-and-feel’ of the Arnega interface can be customised, using the Customise button. Depending upon the particular Mode in which Arnega is placed, it is possible to search for words or phrases within questions, and to set an Automatic Advance interval for timed learning.

Press **F1** at any time for help on various keyboard shortcuts etc.

A fuller discussion of all the elements of the Arnega Main Screen is contained under the following headings:

* Option Panel
* Control Buttons
* Navigation Tools

## OPTION PANEL

Four drop-down boxes, one check-box, and one button are available:

* Subject
* Topic
* Mode
* Sequence
* Eliminator (‘Display each question once only’)
* Refresh

Subject

Select a Subject from the drop-down box. Each Subject corresponds to a sub-folder beneath the ‘Subjects’ folder in the Arnega hierarchy of folders (see above, under Files and Folders). Once a particular Subject has been selected, the Topic drop-down box is filled, in alphabetical order, with all the Topics available under that Subject.

Topic

Select a Topic from the drop-down box. Each Topic corresponds to a single text file within the selected Subject folder. The Topics are the Question-and-Answer files created in the accompanying Editor. There is no limit to the number of Topics that can be created within each Subject.

When the Topic is selected, the number of questions it contains will be displayed just above the drop-down box (6 in the above example). An asterisk behind the number of questions indicates that one or more of the questions has been ‘locked’ by the creator of the questions (in Arnega Editor), to ensure that the font types, sizes and alignment of certain questions will be displayed exactly as intended. See on Lock Checkbox below for more information. Note too that ‘locking’ overrides any default customisation that has been set.

Mode

Select one of three Modes, each one corresponding to a different manner in which the questions and answers are displayed:

Learning: When you start the session, both question and answer are displayed simultaneously. This gives you the opportunity to learn the material, before being tested on it.

Practice and Test: When you start the session, initially only the question is displayed. The answer is temporarily hidden below the lower Arnega Panel, which now displays the caption ‘SHOW ANSWER’. When this panel is clicked, the answer will be displayed. You must now decide for yourself whether your answer (arrived at mentally, before the panel was clicked) was correct or not. If correct, click the green check button (**✓**), otherwise the red cross (**🗶**). The Performance Gauge and Statistics sections will then be updated, and the next question will automatically be displayed (with its answer hidden, as before). The process is then repeated as many times as is desired.

The essential **difference** between Practice Mode and Test Mode is that, in Practice Mode (with the Eliminator checkbox – ‘Display each question once only’ - unchecked), you may cycle indefinitely through the various questions in the Topic, being presented with potentially the same question/s over and over again, in random sequence. In Test mode, however, each question is presented once only, without the possibility of the same question being asked twice.

A further difference is that, in Practice Mode, only the **Random** sequence is allowed, whereas in Test Mode both Regular and Random sequences are allowed.

Sequence

Select one of two sequences, Regular or Random. In Regular sequence (available only for Learning and Test Modes), the questions are displayed in the same numerical order as they were created in the Editor; in Random sequence (available for all three Modes) the questions are displayed in an unpredictable, random fashion.

Eliminator (Display each question once only)

This check box is available only in Learning Mode, Random Sequence (‘Display each question once only’), and in Practice Mode (‘Eliminator’). The implications of placing a check mark in this box in Learning Mode is slightly different from doing so in Practice Mode:

Learning Mode: All the questions will be displayed, but each question once only. (You will not be presented with the same question twice).

Practice Mode: A question will only be displayed for a second (or further) time, if you your answer to that question was INCORRECT, i.e. you clicked the red cross (**🗶**).   
An incorrectly answered question will randomly be presented over and over again, until you answer it correctly and click the green check button (**✓**).

Refresh

Click the **Refresh** button to return to the state in which the Arnega Main Screen was displayed when you opened the program. More specifically, the program re-scans the Subjects folder for any changes to the Arnega folder hierarchy, and updates the Subject drop-down box accordingly. This is useful if you have performed a manual change to the Subjects folder structure (e.g. added or removed one or more folders using Windows Explorer), and you wish Arnega to reflect the changes without having to restart the program.

## CONTROL BUTTONS

The following controls are discussed   
under separate sub-headings:

* Start
* Editor
* Browser
* Customise
* About
* Automatic Advance
* Search for word or phrase
* Swop Q & A

Start

Once you have selected a suitable Subject, Topic, Mode and Sequence from the Option Panel, you are ready to begin the session. When you click the Start button, you will notice various things happen:

* The first question (and answer, if Learning Mode was selected) will be displayed.
* The entire Option Panel, and various other Control and Navigation Buttons, will variously become enabled (available for use), or ‘greyed-out’ (unavailable for use).
* The caption of the Start button will change to ‘Stop’, signalling that this button is also used to end the current session, and return the enabled / disabled buttons to their previous state.

Editor

If the Editor program (*Edit.exe*) has been correctly placed in the same folder as the main Arnega program (*Arnega.exe*), the Editor will open and enable you to perform various editing functions (see under Arnega Editor below). If *Edit.exe* is not available, you will receive an error message. Note that the Arnega Main Screen is not closed when you open the Editor, merely ‘hidden’ behind it.

Browser

Click this button to open the web file *index.htm* in your default web browser. This file is your springboard to supplementing the text-based questions and answers in Arnega. Use may any HTML editor to replace the default content with your own, extending it with additional HTML files, sub-folders, hyperlinks, etc. The file *index.htm* is automatically created when you run Arnega for the first time, and may be found in the Arnega sub-folder ‘Browser’.

Customise

The default picture, colour scheme and font sizes of the various components of the Arnega Main Screen may be customised to suit your preferences. Note that these customisations affect only the ‘look and feel’ of the interface, and have no influence on the actual content of the Topics (which are created and customised in the Arnega Editor).

It is important to note that certain of the customisations (question and answer text font sizes / types / alignments, and the default picture), will be **overridden**, on a question-by-question basis, if you check the Lock Checkbox in the Arnega Editor, for one or more of the questions. The reasoning behind this is that you may have wanted a particular question, or set of questions, always to be displayed with a certain font size / type / alignment, or with a certain picture, irrespective of other customisations in force.

When you click the Customise button, the following CUSTOMISE screen will be displayed:

Customisations are made by selecting different **values or properties** from the drop-down boxes in the light blue panels. It is best to experiment with various options, to discover which component is effected by which drop-down box, as changes are previewed in real time.

Once you are satisfied with your scheme, and you wish to apply the changes to your current Arnega session (without necessarily wishing to save these changes for future sessions), click the **Apply and Close** button. If you wish to cancel the operation, and do NOT want any changes to be applied, click the **Close** button.

If you would like your customised scheme to become the **default** scheme for all future Arnega sessions (i.e. a ‘permanent’ scheme), place a check mark in the **Make Default** box before you click the Apply and Close button.

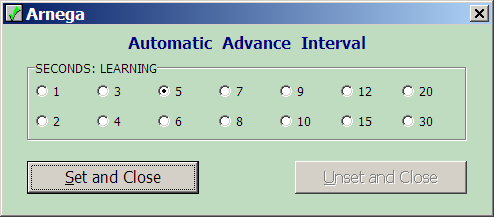
If, having previously created and applied a default scheme, you wish to return to this scheme (perhaps you were experimenting with colours etc. that you did not like), click the **Default** button. This button returns the customisation settings that were previously saved to disk via the Make Default box.

Click the **Original** button if you wish to revert to the original scheme, as it was when you ran Arnega for the first time (i.e. the ‘factory default’ settings). You may then make this your own default scheme, by checking the Make Default box and clicking Apply and Close, as before.

Further Customise Notes:

1. The **default picture** is the one that will be displayed, if no other picture has been selected (in the Arnega Editor) to accompany a given question. All pictures that may be used as default pictures are stored in the *\setup\pictures* sub-folder. Only one additional picture, *paradise.jpg*, comes with the original Arnega setup. However, you may add more default pictures, either by right-clicking on the small picture on the Customise screen, or by right-clicking or pressing the Insert key on the Picture Default drop-down box (top left on the Customise screen). A standard Windows dialog box will open, enabling you to browse for the picture that you wish to add. This picture will then be added to the *\setup\pictures* sub-folder.
2. You may **delete a default picture** from the *\setup\pictures* sub-folder by pressing the Delete key on the Picture Default drop-down box. A confirmation dialog box will be displayed. When you delete a picture, the original default picture, *default.jpg*, will be displayed in its place. (Note that you may not delete the mandatory file *default.jpg*: see further on [Files and Folders](#files_and_folders) above).
3. It is possible to customise a **central text alignment** **for media files that are text-based** by clicking on the light green text box. Note that this is the only customisation setting that does NOT have a corresponding drop-down box.

Automatic Advance

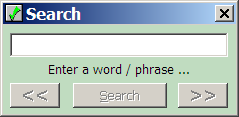
This feature is designed to enable you to limit the time interval between the display of questions. It also reduces the amount of user input required, by eliminating the need for certain mouse-clicks (e.g. ‘Next’ and ‘Back’ buttons). It is available for all three modes. In Practice Mode, for space considerations, the button is smaller and has the caption ‘Auto’.

Select a time interval in seconds, by clicking the appropriate **radio button**, then Set and Close. The screen will close, and you will see a bright lime green border around the Automatic Advance button, indicating that automatic advance is now in force. The caption of the button will also change, to display the interval selected.

When you now begin a session, by clicking the Start button, the questions will be displayed according to the chosen interval. In order to turn off automatic advance, click the Automatic Advance button once more (now displaying the number of seconds), then Unset and Close. Note that Automatic Advance will be turned off automatically, if you select any of the Option Panel drop-down boxes.

Note that in **Learning Mode**, Automatic Advance will cause the questions and answers to be displayed continuously, without any mouse or keyboard input being required. In **Practice and Test Modes**, however, each ANSWER will be displayed after the given interval, but the program will then WAIT for you to click on the green check (**✓**) or the red cross (**🗶**), before continuing with the next question.

Search

Click the Search button in order to identify those questions, within the selected topic only, which contain a given word or phrase. Type the required word / phrase in the space provided, then click Search. Arnega will indicate the number of matches found (if any), and the first Question / Answer set containing this word or phrase will be displayed. If more than one match is found, the << and >> buttons will enable you to scroll through the matches, one at a time. Press the Esc key to end the search session. Note that Search is only available in Learning Mode, and only once the Start button has been clicked.

Swop Q and A

Check this box in order to swop the questions and answers around. It is available only *before* you click the Start button, then stays in effect until the Stop button is clicked (or until the end of the Practice / Test). The check box resets itself at this point. Not all types of question / answer sets will benefit from this feature, but it does offer distinct advantages for things like vocabulary, definitions, single word answers, etc.

# DISCLAIMER

**Please note that Arnega is provided ‘as is’**, without any express warranties or guarantees of any kind. The author will not be held responsible for any outcome resulting from its use or abuse, including the nature and factual correctness or otherwise of any material loaded or used in conjunction with it.

Enjoy using Arnega!

**The Author**