


This component is based around life in ancient Greece just over three thousand years ago. The Culture half of the topic covers the ancient civilisation known as the Mycenaean Age. You will study some of the main Mycenaean sites and the items that made these places so remarkable. From tiny objects like rings, to huge, city walls, you will study a variety of source material to find out what life was like at the time.

Frescos			Examples of Frescoes	
1	Fresco	A painting originally made on damp plaster in which the colours become fixed as the plaster dries.	9	Below are a number of the most famous frescoes across the Mycenaean period. They are not exhaustive though; there are many more examples available.
2	Mycenaean Frescoes	Mycenaean frescoes are admired for their use of colour and attention to fine detail. The most detailed were found in palaces and grander buildings. However, many homes had frescoes, even if they were more simple in design.	10	<p>"The Mycenaean Lady"</p> <p>A fresco known as the Mycenaean Lady shows a thoughtful woman in a typically Mycenaean garment holding a necklace. It is a prescribed source and needs to be studied.</p>
3	Creation of a Fresco	Initially a thick layer of fine plaster would have been put onto a stone wall. Then a fine layer of plaster would have been added. Before this dried, colours would be painted on with string used to separate the colours when applying.		
4	Colour	The table below outlines how the colours for the frescoes were created:		
	Black	Carbon (charcoal)		
	Blue	Copper compound		
	Red	A mineral called haematite		
	Yellow	Ochre (clay earth pigment)		
	Green	Mixing blue and yellow, or a mineral called malachite		
	White	Lime plaster		
5	Common Use of Colour	Men were often depicted with red skin colour, women with white. Yellow was used for lions and blue for monkeys.	11	<p>The Ship Procession</p> <p>A fresco known as the ship procession is one of the most famous scenes from Akrotiri due to the level of detail. Whilst not a prescribed source, it can be referred to in an exam.</p>
6	Akrotiri	Akrotiri is a Minoan site in Santorini (Greek Island) destroyed by fire at the start of the Mycenaean period, which has influenced the Mycenaean period greatly. There are a number of frescoes found at Akrotiri.	12	<p>Woman picking Saffron</p> <p>This fresco is famous for its use of contrasting colours.</p> <p>The Fisherman</p> <p>This fresco is famous for its detail, particularly the fish.</p>
	Themes	There were some common themes depicted in frescoes which are outlined below:		
	Theme 1: Nature	There are plenty of examples of nature as a theme amongst the frescoes of Akrotiri. The best example is a house that had spring emerging on three of the walls of a room.		
	Theme 2: Women	Women are often depicted in the frescoes of Akrotiri and arguably the most famous fresco in Mycenae: the Mycenaean lady holding a necklace.		
	Theme 3: Animals	Animals are common themes of frescoes with a wide variety depicted. One example has monkeys on it, and another featuring swallows. Other animals can be found: octopi, horses, bulls, lions, dogs, deer and some mythical animals such as a Sphinx.		
	Theme 4: Processions	There are examples of processions in frescoes. At Thebes, there is one showing women carrying vases, a pyxis, and flowers.		
	Theme 5: War	War is often depicted in frescoes. The figure of eight shields are depicted prominently in a number of frescoes in cities.		
8	Limitations	Despite their beauty, frescoes did have their limitations and are reflective of the time period. Perspective was not used so a lot of the frescoes feel 'flat' rather than 3D. Faces are often shown face on even if they are looking to the side.	 