

Scheme of Learning: The Homeric World: Cultural Study

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4
Mycenaean Age: Key Sites	Mycenaean Age: Life in the Mycenaean Age	Mycenaean Age: Decorative Arts	Mycenaean Age: Tombs, Graves, and Burials

Topic Overview:

This is the third topic in the cultural study that forms half of the second Classics paper. The cultural study focuses on the Mycenaean Age and is more of a historical study of this period. It explores four major concepts: the cities of Mycenae, Tiryns and Troy; life in the Mycenaean Age; the decorative arts of the Mycenaean Age; and what we can learn from the tombs and graves of the cities, particularly Mycenae. This third topic builds on the previous two and explores the arts and jewellery of the period, and demonstrates the skill of the Mycenaean's in their metalwork and jewellery making. It also explores art further by examining the frescoes from the period.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to purposely build pupils' understanding and knowledge of how developed the Mycenaean Age was in terms of its decorative arts and skill in the production of metal goods. The topic really tries to establish that the Mycenaean Age was one that really advances the Bronze Age with its intricate jewellery work, and opens up pupils' minds to the concept that the Ancient Greeks were incredibly advanced in what they achieved. It also explores further art by looking at the frescoes from Mycenae and Tiryns and what they tell us about Mycenaean life.

The topic in fact starts with a look at the frescoes from the period. It looks at how these pieces of wall art were created, and what the images on display tell us further about Mycenaean life, building on the last topic. As well as understanding how they were constructed and paint created, pupils will explore a number of key frescoes from the period: The Mycenaean Lady with the Necklace, the Ship Procession, the Woman Picking Saffron, and The Fisherman. All will need to be explored in terms of design, meaning, and importance.

The next series of lessons focuses on Mycenaean metalwork, with a particular emphasis on gold work. The pupils need to develop a knowledge of how the intricate metal work on this jewellery is created. They will need to have an understanding of key techniques such as repousse, inlay, and granulation. They will need to be able to identify these techniques in examples of metal work, especially on some key prescribed sources such as the Gold Pyxis jewellery box, and the signet ring with religious images. Other sources include the gold bull rhyton that was developed in this time. All of this learning will need to be applied to exam questions and pupils will need to be comfortable identifying the piece of jewellery and the technique applied.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	MA Lesson 13 – Decorative Arts (Overview)
2	MA Lesson 14 – Decorative Arts (Frescoes)
3	MA Lesson 15 – Decorative Arts (Jewellery)
4	MA Lesson 16: Decorative Arts (Objects)
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Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	1.	Knowledge Map: Decorative Arts (Frescoes)	Prescribed Sources:	Prescribes Sources: Mycenaean Age – Decorative Arts
	2.	Knowledge Map: Decorative Arts (Jewellery)		

Assessment:

Knowledge:	
Application of Knowledge:	

Supportive Reading:
