

Scheme of Learning: The Homeric World: Cultural Study

Topic Sequence:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 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 last 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 last topic of the cultural study explores the more macabre topic of graves and tombs. It explores the types of tombs and graves found in this period, but most importantly, what we can learn from those graves, particularly from the contents of the grave. It offers further understanding of the period and builds on what we have learnt about life in the Mycenaean Age.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to purposely build on pupils' understanding and knowledge of Greek death and burial processes which was studied in the previous paper. This should not be an unfamiliar topic for pupils, it will just be focused very much around specific examples of burials, tombs, and graves from Mycenae. Pupils should be familiar with the customs of the period for death and burial, and also the location of these tombs and burial sites from the first topic of this cultural study. The key will be to understand that this topic very much focuses on key graves and tombs from Mycenae.

The first series of lessons look at the different types of graves or tombs. Pupils need to be able to understand the differences between a cast and shaft grave, and how they were constructed. They must also be able to identify a tholos tomb, how these were constructed, and what they reveal about Mycenaean life.

The next set of lessons look at Grave Circle A and B in more detail than the first topic. It focuses on the custom of burying funerary items with the dead, and the contents of specific graves in Mycenae. There is one prescribed source for this section, which is the gold death mask of Agamemnon. Pupils need to be able to identify this mask, the story behind it, and why it carries such importance. They must also be able to link it to the previous topic of metalwork and how it was created. Essentially, pupils need to be able to articulate what can be found in the graves and what it tells us about Mycenaean life, even if that is quite limited.

This topic will draw together all pupils understanding of the Mycenaean Age and draws a conclusion to it. The knowledge pupils develop will be tested with a section from Paper 2 that covers the entire cultural study.

Sequence of Lessons:

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| 1 | MA Lesson 17 – Tombs (Overview) |
| 2 | MA Lesson 18 – Tombs (Types of Graves) |
| 3 | MA Lesson 19 – Tombs (Grave Circles) |
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Topic Resources:

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| Knowledge Map: | 1. | Knowledge Map: Tombs, Graves and Burials | Prescribed Sources: | |
| | 2. | Knowledge Map: Tombs, Graves, and Burials: Grave Circles | | |

Assessment:

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| Knowledge: | |
| Application of Knowledge: | |

Supportive Reading:

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