

Answers

Gods

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) He is depicted in his role as the King of the Gods because he is seated on a throne.
- b) (i) Apollo, (ii) Ares/Mars, (iii) Athena/Minerva
- c) Mars was very important to the Romans and was one of the main gods they worshipped, while Ares was worshipped much more rarely and not considered so important.
- d) The sea was central to trade and travel in the ancient world as it was faster than over land. Therefore, a god who controlled the sea was important to keep on your side. As a brother of Zeus/Jupiter, he was one of the main gods of the pantheon. The world was divided by these three brothers and so all three were important given their key roles.

Source Questions

Suggested answers:

- 1) Athena/Minerva is on the left and is identifiable by the owl at her feet. Zeus/Jupiter is in the middle and has an eagle at his feet, which is one of his symbols. Hera/Juno is on the right and has a peacock, an animal associated with her, at her feet.
- 2) Jupiter and Juno are paired as they are siblings and married; together they are king and queen of the gods. Mars and Venus are lovers and are opposites, war and love. Apollo and Diana are twins and represent the Sun and Moon respectively. Vulcan and Vesta are both to do with fire, one of the smithy, and the other of the hearth.

The Universal Hero: Heracles/Hercules

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) To atone for his killing of his family he was advised by the Oracle of Delphi to undertake the labours.
- b) He was killed by a poisoned shirt and was then given a place among the gods.
- c) He was the city's protector because he fought the monster Cacus at the Aventine Hill, a place that would later be an important part of the city of Rome, and so this linked Hercules to Rome.

Source Questions

Suggested answers:

- 1) Heracles/Hercules is a smooth-chinned youth at the start (left) and a bearded man at the end (right). The significance of this is to illustrate that he was still a mortal, but also that he matured during his labours.
- 2) Heracles is listed among the gods here, showing his status as an Olympian himself. His weapon, the club, is shown as just as much a 'weapon of the gods' as Zeus's thunderbolts and Ares' shield, and he is as much a part of the 'immortals' mentioned as the other gods. The fact that he is listed last might be a reference to the fact that he began as a demigod who was elevated, while Zeus is listed first, signifying his position as king of the gods.

Religion and the City

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) This was the interior chamber of the temple where the cult statue was located and offerings made.
- b) The temple was primarily the home of a particular god, aimed at making him or her welcome and so in the hope of gaining their favour for the city.
- c) Animal sacrifice was to thank the gods for their help in something or to request aid, and to inquire about the future by reading an animal's entrails.

Source Questions

Suggested answers:

- 1) The man in the centre left has a hood over his head, suggesting that he is a pontifex leading the sacrifice; there is a flute player, which was an important part of a sacrifice; a tripod with a libation bowl can be seen, important implements in a sacrificial ritual; an animal can be seen in the background, seemingly led by a man with an axe – this is the sacrificial victim for this sacrifice. A temple can also be seen in the background, indicating its role in the sacrifice as this needed to occur near the house of the god to whom the sacrifice was directed.
- 2) This shows that the Romans considered such sacrifices very important to fulfil in order to please those to whom the sacrifices were dedicated. It also suggests a belief that misfortune can often be attributed to the neglect of such sacrificial duties.

Myth and the City

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) To gain more glory on his return to Athens.
- b) They argued over control of the city and Romulus killed Remus after the latter jumped over the wall Romulus was building.
- c) The most important similarity is that both show the divine origins of their people. For the Athenians, Theseus has divine origins through the god Poseidon, while for the Romans, both Romulus (Mars) and Aeneas (Venus) have divine parentage.

Source Questions

Suggested answers:

- 1) A. The scene depicted is that of Romulus and Remus found being suckled by a she-wolf.
B. Students are more likely to identify the eagle, which is important as it is the messenger of Jupiter. They might also identify Tiberinus, the god of the Tiber River, which is important as it is the river running through Rome.
- 2) His mother is Venus, meaning that he is descended from a goddess – heroes of Greek and Roman myth were often demigods; he was able to save the household gods of Troy, meaning that he is pious, which was a valued trait in Rome; he is shown as dutiful in saving his son and father – respect for your family was important; this point is further driven home by the mention that Aeneas chose them over his other possessions, which, as a prince, would have been many.

Festivals

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) Athens.
- b) Saturn, the god of agriculture.
- c) The most important similarity is that both used mythology to explain the origin of their festival. Often, as with the Great Panathenaia and the Lupercalia, the myth in question had to do with the city's foundation legend.

Source Question

Suggested answers:

- a) It is a victory amphora for the Panathenaic Games, which were held in Athens. Athena was the patron deity of Athens and the games were dedicated to her.
- b) This signified the event that the winner of this amphora won, in this case a foot race.

Myth and Symbols of Power

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) They represented the conflict between civilisation and barbarism. More specifically, both have been seen as a metaphor to the Greek victory over Persia.
- b) They were both aimed at promoting Augustus' position and increasing his legitimacy.
- c) The most important difference is that while both the Greek examples depict only myth which symbolises real-world scenarios, the Roman ones reference real events directly alongside mythological aspects, merging the two to put across the point desired. Of course it must be noted that for many Greeks and Romans, myth and history were one and the same.

Source Questions

Suggested answers:

- 1) A. Athena, the patron deity of Athens, is shown on the obverse. She is also wearing a helmet, which refers to her role as Goddess of War. On the reverse we see the owl of Athena, and an olive sprig, referring to the origin myth of Athens. The letters 'AOE' refer to Athenians.
B. As a coin this would have circulated not only throughout Athens, but, given Athens' power and influence, throughout the Greek world. As a result, it would have reminded all of the power of Athens by calling upon the city's link to Athena and the divine origin of the city. Having the initials for 'Athenians' right next to the owl that represents Athena and the olive sprig which is a reference to the naming myth of Athens would have served to cement the association of the two together: city and divinity.
- 2) Augustus' links to divine origins as well as the founders of the Roman race are shown in this passage. He himself is described as the 'son of a god', which refers to the deification of Julius Caesar, but the link to myth is how both are referred to as 'sons of Iulus', who was Aeneas' son, and so not only establishes Augustus' link to the mythical founder of the Roman people but also through him to further divine parentage given that Aeneas' mother was Venus. This is a powerful call to justify his position as effective ruler of Rome; he is 'prophesied' and so portrayed as being part of the divine plan. In addition, there is a comparison to Hercules, which again really hammers home the uniqueness of Augustus as his achievements can be compared to the Universal Hero who achieved immortality.

Death and Burial

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) So that the departed could pay Charon the ferryman to ferry them across the River Styx and into the underworld.
- b) Because they believed that until the burial was completed, the spirit of the deceased was still around and so would be angered by such talk.
- c) There were clearly many similarities between Greek and Roman burial traditions. Both placed great importance on burial and had a public procession to mark someone's passing.

Source Questions

Suggested answers:

- 1) From this source, we can see that the Romans liked to depict the role or achievement of the person. In this case, he appears to have been a cavalryman in the army. This depiction is quite a striking and prominent part of the tombstone. We can see that there is fine detail in the carving too, again hinting at the importance attached to showcasing the achievements of the dead.
- 2) This source shows us how denying burial was used as a punishment for those who had done wrong. Here it is denied to someone who is perceived as having been an enemy to the city. The fact that this is considered a meaningful punishment tells us a lot about how Greeks perceived burial, for as an unburied person was doomed to walk around the earth and could not enter the underworld, this was seen as perhaps the only way for the living to be able to punish the dead.

Journeying to the Underworld

Consolidation Questions

Suggested answers:

- a) She grieves and is angry due to her daughter's abduction, and, as she is goddess of the harvest, she therefore stops crops from growing.
- b) Pluto and his wife Persephone.
- c) It is a dark, gloomy, murky place. Both traditions depict it as a land of shadows and misery, haunted by the dead.

Source Question

Suggested answers:

- 1) Virgil here presents the underworld first as being easily accessible, as its gateways are open all the time. Entering it, therefore, is suggested to be an easy task. However, it is the return journey that is difficult (something that we have seen in the story of Orpheus), and it is suggested that only sons of gods or those otherwise favoured by the gods have achieved this.