

Quiz 1 Answer Key

Following is information to help you assess your success in answering the questions in Quiz 1. Each answer is worth 5 points for a total of 75 points. Usually, it can be considered that each important piece of information within an answer is worth 1 point. If you omitted some of the points below in your answers but made other important and relevant points instead, you would not necessarily have lost points.

Following is the grading scale:

67 points and above: A

60–66 points: B

52–59 points: C

45–51 points: D

Below 45 points: F

1. What culture(s) and historical era does *classical antiquity* refer to? What are some of the important values that this/these culture(s) promoted?

Comment [AB1]: Note to self: Make all questions match the quiz.

To have fully answered this question you should have, at some point, mentioned the time period spreading from approximately 500 BC to 400 AD. Also included in your answer should be the fact that when we refer to the cultures of classical antiquity we refer to those of ancient Greece and Rome. Some of the values that were promoted by these cultures and that you could have mentioned are: humanism, reason, beauty, and civic involvement. It would have been good to briefly explain the values you chose in their ancient context.

2. What is the Geometric period of Greek art? Situate this period on a timeline, and explain its title and its style. What periods came before and after it?

The Geometric period of Greek art spanned the 9th and 8th centuries BC. Its title comes from the style of its artistic production, which features many geometric motifs such as zigzags, meanders, lozenges, chevrons, dots, lines, triangles, and the like. Figural representations (women, men, animals, objects) were also subjected to geometric stylization, whether they were painted on vessels or sculpted in bronze. The Geometric period of Greek art followed a period of diminished artistic and cultural production sometimes referred to as the “Dark Ages” (the Early Iron Age). The period following the Geometric period is the Archaic period.

3. Who are Zeus and Hera in Greek mythology? What are their roles within the Greek pantheon?

Zeus and Hera are part of the “First Six” of the Olympian Gods. It is important to note that Zeus is the king of the Olympian Gods and ruler of the sky. A lightning-bolt is his attribute. Though he is in many ways the most important God, he is not all-powerful. Hera is Zeus’s wife and sister and the goddess of marriage. Hera embodies fidelity and is often jealous of her husband’s liaisons. If you mentioned different or additional aspects of Zeus and Hera, you would have been given credit for it, as long as you had included their role in the larger pantheon of Greek gods and the fact that they were husband and wife.

4. Where was ancient Greece situated? How did its location impact its development in the Geometric and Archaic periods?

To answer this question, you should be able to situate ancient Greece as a peninsula in the Mediterranean basin on the west of the Aegean Sea. Ancient Greece also comprised islands in the Aegean as well as city-states on the east coast of the Aegean. Its location in the Mediterranean was favorable to trade and exchanges with the Mediterranean world. Contact with the Eastern Mediterranean had a great impact on ancient Greece's cultural "rebirth" of the Geometric period, and Archaic art of the 7th century shows many Eastern motifs and influences.

5. Which architectural order was the first one to be used in ancient Greece? Describe the elevation of a temple of that order. What were temples made of during the Archaic period?

The Doric order was the first to be used in temple construction. The most important parts of the elevation of a Doric temple to consider would be, starting from the bottom: its baseless column, a fairly simple capital, its entablature composed of an architrave, triglyphs and metopes (together, the frieze), and at the top, a pediment. In the Archaic period, temples were made of wood and stone, such as marble.

6. How did Greece's geographical location influence 7th-century BC pottery arts? What is the name of the style developed during this era? What innovations and motifs are associated with this style?

To answer this question you should have addressed Greece's location in the Mediterranean basin, in a trade route with the East. In the seventh century BC, many animal and floral motifs, as well as mythical creatures gleaned from Near-Eastern art (sculptures, textiles, ivories etc.) started to appear in Greek pottery art. These included rosettes, palmettes, lotuses, lions, wild goats, sphinxes, griffins etc. More naturalism transpired in these representations than was the case in Geometric-period pottery paintings. The name the style was given is, fittingly, the "orientalizing style."

7. Place the Geometric, Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic artistic periods of Greece on a timeline. Briefly explain why we usually start the study of the art of classical antiquity with Greece's Geometric period.

The Geometric period of Greece spans the years from 900 to 700 BC, the Archaic period those from 700 to 480 B.C, the classical period spans the period from 480 to 323 BC, and the Hellenistic from 323 to 31 BC. Since at this point in the course we have only looked in depth at the Geometric and Archaic periods, an approximate date would be acceptable. For example, instead of saying that the classical period starts in 480 BC and ends in 323 BC, you could have said that it started in the early 5th century BC and ended in the late 4th century BC. We usually start the study of ancient classical art with Greece's Geometric period because it marks the beginning of an artistic and cultural rebirth that would eventually evolve into the "classical style."

8. What types of artworks were made during the Geometric period of Greek art? Why were they made? What were some common themes of these works of art?

An important form of art for the Geometric period is pottery painting. Vessels, many of them very large, were painted with geometric motifs and figures. Many of these vases were found in cemeteries, as they held a funerary function as grave markers. They are decorated with many purely geometric motifs, and with figural scenes of people participating in funerary rituals or war. Funerary votive figurines of bronze and terracotta were also created during the Geometric period.

9. What are *kouroi* and *korai*? When and with what material(s) were they made? What function might they have served?

Kouroi and *korai* are large freestanding sculptures dating from the Archaic period of Greek art. *Kouroi* represent young nude males, while *korai* represent young clothed females. The *kouros* is represented with one foot in front of the other. Both have certain distinctive features such as their “archaic smile” and strict frontality, which identify them as *kouroi* and *korai*. They started to be produced in the early sixth century BC and continued to be throughout the sixth century and into the early 5th century BC. They were usually made of marble. They probably served as grave markers as well as a means to project an ideal image of the represented individual.

10. What is the black-figure technique? How was it achieved?

The black-figure technique refers to a type of vase painting in which the figures and ornamentation are black on a clay-colored background. The background was kept undecorated. The technique was widely used during the Archaic period. The vases were painted with a slip, which, in the process of firing, turned black. Other colors could be added, such as was the case in the Corinthian tradition. Details were also largely incised onto the black figures, such as was the case in the Attic tradition.

11. The Geometric period of Greek art is often considered a rebirth of art. What other aspects of Greek society changed as part of the larger cultural rebirth during the same period?

The production of Geometric art in Greece was part of a larger cultural “rebirth.” The Geometric period saw the establishment of the Greek city-states, the development of the Greek alphabet and writing, the creation of the Homeric epics, the building of temples, or the holding of the first Olympic Games.

12. What is the name of this famous [vase](#)? When, where, and with what technique was the vase painted? What is the name of this type of vase? (Hint: it is identifiable by its shape.)

This is the François Vase, an Attic Vase. It is a *krater*, and was painted in the black-figure technique in the early to mid-6th century BC.

13. Which god/goddess was honored in monumental archaic structures on the Acropolis of Athens? Why can we no longer see these structures today?

Athena was honored in monumental archaic structures on the Acropolis of Athens. However, the Acropolis was attacked and its monuments destroyed by the Persians in the early 5th century BC. What we can see today are the remnants of the 5th century BC construction program.

14. What was the typical plan of a Greek temple in the Archaic period and beyond? How were rituals performed in relation to the temple?

A typical Greek temple plan was rectangular in shape, had columns along its four sides, all surrounding the *cella* or *naos*, itself containing the statue of the honored deity. A *pronaos*, the chamber preceding the *naos*, and an *opisthodomos*, a chamber located at the rear of the *naos*, framed the *naos*. Though the temple was the focus of religious rituals since it was considered the home of a deity, rituals were performed outside the temple. An altar stood outside the temple and was the site of sacrifices.

15. When was red-figure painting invented? Was it invented before or after black-figure pottery painting? What is it exactly?

Red-figure painting was invented in the later 6th century BC, around 530 BC. It was invented after the black-figure painting technique. With red-figure painting, a slip is applied on the background of scenes, not on the figures or motifs themselves. The background is thus black, while the figures and decorative motifs are clay-colored. The artist can then work with a brush to paint the figures and details.