

American School of Classical Studies at Athens
Examination in Greek Art and Archaeology 2005

Time: 2 hours

Directions: Answer Part I and three questions from Part II.

In choosing which questions to answer, try to show as broad a range of knowledge (chronological, geographical, and subject matter) as possible.

Part I: Identifications [value, 25 points] In one or two sentences, identify seven (7) of the following terms, being sure to give their significance.

Copaic Lake

Euphronios

Laconian lead figurines

lebes gamikos

Nea Nikomedeia

Nikopolis

Olynthus

opisthodomos

Scopas

terminus post quem

tholos tomb

xoanon

Part II: Essay Questions [value, 75 points] Answer three (3) of the following questions.

1. What range of dates can be assigned to the Homeric epics, based on the artifacts mentioned therein? Explain how such a range of dates is possible, and provide examples of artifacts mentioned and their probable (approximate) dates.
2. Suppose graveyards of burials like that discovered at Lefkandi were excavated at Gytheion and Amphipolis. How would that change our understanding of Dark Age society?
3. Write a brief history of Greek sculpture down to 479 BC. Trace the changes and account for them.
4. Discuss varying treatments of one of the following figures or themes as they appear in archaic and Classical vase painting: satyrs; symposia; domestic life.
5. Identify the monuments described as “Cimonian,” and explain the designation. Why are they important for the archaeological history of Athens?
6. Discuss the significance of the Sullan sack or the Herulian sack for the archaeology of Athens.
7. A common question asked of archaeologists by people who are staring down at artefacts and the remains of buildings in a trench is, “How did it happen that they were buried?” Discuss several of the different processes of deposition that have buried archaeological sites and give examples from the Greek world of each. What happened to sites that were not buried?
8. Discuss the major advances in the archaeology of cult during the last 100 years, with reference to specific examples.