

History of Art A Level – Preparatory Work 2026

Please take notes and bring them to give in during your first lesson. If you prefer to word process please print your notes off to hand in.

Please note – the extension exercises are optional!

Part 1

<https://www.worldhistory.org/uploads/images/15618.png?v=1649059050>

Look carefully and comment on what you see – concentrate on how Monet has used colour but comment on other things that stand out to you.

Van Gogh preferred this picture to his own:

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/vincent-van-gogh-sunflowers>

Which picture do you prefer and why?

Extension exercise: Want to know more about Monet's version and its artistic context?

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437112>

This museum website is a brilliant resource (so is the National Gallery website for the Van Gogh) so this is a very open task – don't feel that you must follow every link, follow up on what interests you most.

Part 2

<https://images.theconversation.com/files/276900/original/file-20190529-42565-qyf66a.jpg?ixlib=rb-4.1.0&q=45&auto=format&w=1000&fit=clip>

Look carefully and describe what you see.

Read up a little about the process by which this object was made.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-you-need-know-about-chinas-terra-cotta-warriors-first-qin-emperor-30942673/>

How does finding out more about the process by which the work was made help to explain the appearance of the object?

Extension exercise: Want to know more about the First Emperor of China's terracotta army?

<https://smarthistory.org/the-terracotta-warriors/>

This website is another fantastic resource for the Art History course – explore it a little if you have time following up with your own choice of topic.

Part 3

<https://www.tajmahal.gov.in/>

Look carefully and write down the five key words you would most need if you were describing this building to someone who could not see it.

Extension exercise: The website has quite a lot of information about the architecture of the building and its historical context so you can read about it there, but there are a lot of resources on the Mughal Empire and you will come across it again so...

<https://www.metmuseum.org/learn/educators/curriculum-resources/art-of-the-islamic-world/unit-five/chapter-four/introduction>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-arts-of-the-mughal-empire>

Final extension:

Job opportunities in the art world will be discussed!

People sometimes forget that the art world includes some rich business – the film is a reminder <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvcg1ytmtVA> and there is some interesting information on Giacometti (we look at one of his works later).