

History of Art - A Level – Preparatory Work 2025

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.

Part 1

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

Look carefully and describe what you see.

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.

Before doing any research make a note of what you think about the materials and techniques involved in the manufacture of this object.

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/>

Is this figure a work of art or a work of craft? This is a question which asks you to develop a view on what is art and what is craft – is there a meaningful difference and, if so, what is it? Don't worry if you aren't sure – there isn't a 'right' answer.

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

(No notes necessary)

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).