

Dublin Castle

Classical Studies Questions

General Questions

Literature and legends

1. You have come across visual references to three major literary works of ancient Greece and Rome. What are these visual references and to what literary works do they refer?
2. Name the genre of these literary works and give a brief definition of this genre.
3. Choose two of the above works and briefly compare them.
4. List the Gods of the Greek and Roman Pantheon that you have come across in the State Apartments.
5. Mention two myths / legends from ancient Greek or Roman mythology that are somehow portrayed or referred to in the State Apartments (e.g. in paintings, sculpture, pottery or other decorative ware).

Architecture

1. Name the main architectural orders.
2. What is the main difference between the original Ionic order as used in ancient Greek buildings and the later Roman version of that order? Do neoclassical buildings use the former, the latter or both?
3. Explain how architectural features from ancient times are present in 18th and 19th century Irish buildings.

Questions relating to specific parts of the State Apartments

Entrance Hall

Identify the architectural order in the hall. Do you find it suitable for an entrance hall?

Battleaxe Landing

1. Describe the decorative feature known as “fasces”? Where is it to be seen in this part of the State Apartments? Have you seen it in any other building?
2. Identify other classical motives and features.

Foyer

1. Look at the drawing of the Roman Forum. What was a forum?
2. What temple is depicted in the foreground of the picture and what is its architectural order?

Granard Room

1. With which human endeavours is the goddess Athena associated?
2. Did Athena side with the Greeks or with the Trojans in the Iliad? Mention an instance of her help.

Arts and Sciences Room

1. Why is Apollo depicted within a sunburst?
2. Which side did God Apollo favour in the Iliad? Mention one example of his help.

Queen’s Bedroom

1. Identify each of the three characters in the painting.
2. How did Hector die?
- 3*. How does the view of war held by women, such as the ones depicted, differ from that held by the warriors?
- 4*. What oath does Hector ask Achilles to swear when he faces him outside the walls of Troy?
- 5*. What makes Astyanax frightened in Book 6 of the Iliad?
- 6*. In Book 6 of the Iliad, what is Hector asked by his wife? Does he agree to her request and what reasons does he give for his answer?
- 7*. In Book 6 of the Iliad, what is Hector’s prayer for his baby son?

State Corridor

1. Identify the architectural order of the columns.
2. Can you find any other classical elements or references in the corridor?

Apollo Room

What is the architectural order of this room? Identify the features of that order which are present in the room.

Drawing Room

1. Identify the type of creatures depicted on the fireplaces.
2. With which activity is Hephaestus / Vulcan associated? Describe his role in the Iliad.
3. Identify the architectural order of this room.

Throne Room

1. Which God is the father of Sarpedon (from the Iliad)?
- 2*. Which god or goddess stops Achilles from killing Agamemnon in the Iliad?
3. Who was Iris? Where have you come across her?
4. Identify the gods and mortals depicted in these six paintings.
5. Identify the architectural order of this room.

Portrait Gallery / Dining Room

1. Identify the architectural order of this room.
2. How does it differ from the same type of order seen in the Bedford Tower and in the State Corridor?
3. Which renowned Athenian building does it imitate?

St Patrick's Hall

1. Identify the architectural order of the columns. Which other rooms in the State Apartments use the same decorative order? What distinguishes this order?
2. Take a look at the background of the central ceiling painting. Which classical features can you identify?

Exterior

Look around you in the yard. What architectural features of the castle yard would you also find in a roman villa and a roman bath?

The questions marked with an asterisk have been taken from past Junior Certificate examination papers.