

### Classical Architecture (Question References)

Paragraph 1 There are three different types or styles of order (column) in Greek architecture: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. [A] The relative proportions of base, shaft and capital varied in the different types of order. [B] The Romans adapted the Greek orders for their own purposes, but in general Roman orders were lighter, and more heavily decorated. [C]

#### Doric

- 2 [D] The Doric order is the most massive of the three. It is the only style in which the column has no base and the shaft is placed directly on the platform. The shaft itself is grooved and the grooves meet in a sharp edge. The capital can be described as a *plain convex moulding*. The architrave can be plain or decorated with intermittent rows of small triangular carvings. The frieze is decorated with a series of tablets with vertical flutings, alternating with square spaces which were either left plain or decorated with relief carvings.

#### Ionic

- 3 In the Ionic order, the shaft is taller and more slender. The grooves on the shaft are separated by flat bands. Occasionally the shafts are replaced by female figures (caryatids). According to legend, they represent the women from an ancient tribe whom the Greeks captured and enslaved. The capital has two sets of spirals, rather like a roll of paper with its ends curled towards each other. The architrave is made up of three horizontal planes, each projecting slightly beyond the one below. The frieze can be plain or sculptured. The cornice in the Ionic order is often decorated with rows of small blocks, which look like teeth and are called **dentals**.

#### Corinthian

- 4 The Corinthian order is similar to the Ionic. The main difference is in the capital, which is much more richly decorated. A Corinthian capital is like an inverted bell. Some of them are decorated with acanthus leaves surmounted by four symmetrical scrolls. In others, *lotus or palm leaves replace the scrolls*.

#### Mathematical Rules in Greek Architecture

- 5 The Greeks never used more than one style for the whole of a building. The only exception to this rule was to have one order for the exterior and another for the interior. As a result it is relatively easy to decide the style of any Greek building, even one in ruins, by looking at a capital, a segment of a column or part of an entablature.
- 6 All the measurements used by the architects, such as the height of a column, were expressed in multiples of the diameter at the base of the shaft. Each order had its own rules concerning the size of its component parts. For example, the height of a Doric column is between four and six times the diameter of its base. The height of an Ionic column is nine times, and the height of a Corinthian column is



ten times the diameter of its base. Similar rules governed even the smallest component of a building.

7 The system had many advantages. One was that while only a man of great talent could build a masterpiece, even a mediocre architect, working within the rules, could produce a **passable** result.

8 Although little of ancient Greek architecture remains in its original form, its influence has been **enormous**. The ancient Greeks took their styles to the lands which they colonized—for example Sicily and much of the Mediterranean littoral—and when Greece itself became a Roman colony in the second century B.C., the Romans happily adopted the styles of what they instinctively recognized as fine art. Greek influence on Roman architecture was profound, particularly after Greece became a Roman province in the second century B.C. Many of Rome's outstanding buildings were indeed built by Greeks.

### Roman Orders

9 The Romans had five different styles or orders. Three were borrowed directly from the Greeks: Doric—the plainest and sturdiest; Ionic—with fluted capitals; and Corinthian—in which the capital is decorated with acanthus leaves. This last order was the most popular among the Romans.

10 The two styles which the Romans added were Tuscan—an even simpler form of Doric, and Composite—a richer form of Corinthian. In Roman buildings of more than one story, the orders were placed one above the other and usually in a prescribed sequence. The lowest would be the Doric, above it the Ionic, and above that the Corinthian.

1. What does this passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Classical columns in architecture
- (B) Greek influence on Roman columns
- (C) Mathematical rules for columns
- (D) Fine art in ancient buildings

2. What is the rule for the height of a Corinthian column?

- (A) Six times the diameter of the base
- (B) Nine times the diameter of the base
- (C) Ten times the diameter of the base
- (D) Twelve times the diameter of the base

3. The word **passable** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) recognized
- (B) similar
- (C) satisfactory
- (D) correct

4. The word **enormous** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) very good
- (B) very large
- (C) very beautiful
- (D) very strong

Corinthian	Ionic	Doric
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.	.	.



5. The word **another** in the passage refers to
- (A) exterior
  - (B) order
  - (C) rule
  - (D) exception
6. According to paragraph 10, which new orders did the Romans add to the architectural styles of the Greeks?

Click on 2 answers.

- (A) Doric
  - (B) Composite
  - (C) Tuscan
  - (D) Corinthian
7. Which of the sentences below best expresses the information in the highlighted statement in the passage? The other choices change the meaning or leave out important information.
- (A) Buildings were designed with several styles.
  - (B) The styles in a building complimented it.
  - (C) Only one style was used in each building.
  - (D) There is one style of Greek architecture.
8. The author mentioned all of the following characteristics of the Corinthian order EXCEPT
- (A) It was the Greek style that the Romans preferred.
  - (B) It included a heavily decorated capital.
  - (C) It was a design that first appeared in Corinth.
  - (D) It was often used as the top story above the Doric and Ionic.
9. It can be inferred from the mathematical rules that
- (A) the Ionic column is the heaviest
  - (B) the Corinthian column is the slimmest
  - (C) the Doric column is the tallest
  - (D) the Tuscan column is the most ornate
10. Four squares (□) indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

***Both the Greek and the Roman orders have inspired a number of classical revivals, and many examples are evident in modern buildings.***

Where would the sentence best fit into the passage?

- (A)
- (B)
- (C)
- (D)

11. Complete the table below by classifying each of the answer choices under the order to which it refers. One of the answer choices will not be used.
- (A) Various leaves and scrolls decorate the column.
  - (B) The column is often painted in bright colors.
  - (C) A column without a base, it sits on the platform.
  - (D) The largest, widest style of the Greek columns.
  - (E) The column is nine times as high as the diameter of the base.
  - (F) Female figures are sometimes substituted for the shaft.
  - (G) Four symmetrical scrolls grace the column.

Doric	Ionic	Corinthian
•	•	•
•	•	•