

Texas A&M University (TAMU) ARCH249 Survey of World Architecture History I Exam 2 Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. What is the primary purpose of the Andron in a Greek house?
 - A. A gathering area for families
 - B. A kitchen space
 - C. A reserved area for men
 - D. A storage room
2. What does the term "post and lintel" describe in architecture?
 - A. A type of curved archway
 - B. A structure of vertical beams supporting a horizontal beam
 - C. A specific roofing technique for temples
 - D. A design that emphasizes open space
3. Which feature describes the typical structure of a Doric frieze?
 - A. Regular pattern of architraves
 - B. Panels and triglyphs
 - C. Engaged columns
 - D. Open pediments
4. What is the primary orientation of the Temple of Apollo Epikourios?
 - A. East-West
 - B. North-South
 - C. Diagonal
 - D. Random
5. What was the primary function of the Cloaca Maxima in ancient Rome?
 - A. To serve as a marketplace
 - B. To provide drainage
 - C. To honor deities
 - D. To house government offices

6. What architectural feature is present on all four sides of the Parthenon?
- A. Doric frieze
 - B. Corinthian columns
 - C. Superimposed order
 - D. Ionic frieze
7. What materials were commonly used to construct a triclinium in ancient Rome?
- A. Wood and metal
 - B. Stone and marble
 - C. Earth and clay
 - D. Textiles and glass
8. What feature is characteristic of the Basilica Nova?
- A. Complex coffered domes
 - B. Compound columns
 - C. Clerestory above groin vaults
 - D. Triumphal arches
9. What structure is known as a predecessor to the modern amphitheater in Rome?
- A. Theater of Marcellus
 - B. Baths of Diocletian
 - C. Markets of Trajan
 - D. Column of Trajan
10. What significant structure is associated with Diocletian's reign?
- A. The Roman Forum
 - B. The Colosseum
 - C. The Roman Baths
 - D. The Pantheon

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. A
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary purpose of the Andron in a Greek house?

- A. A gathering area for families
- B. A kitchen space
- C. A reserved area for men
- D. A storage room

The Andron in a Greek house served as a designated area primarily for men, often where they would gather for social and ceremonial activities. It was typically separate from the rest of the household areas, including living spaces and domestic services, reflecting the social customs that distinguished gender roles in ancient Greek society. The space was used for entertaining male guests, holding symposiums, and engaging in discussions, emphasizing the exclusivity and importance of male social interactions in this period. This distinction highlights the role the Andron played in the broader context of Greek domestic architecture and social hierarchy. The design of the Andron, often featuring couches arranged around a central space, allowed for interaction while maintaining the cultural norms of separation between genders in domestic settings. This space's significance in the household also underscores the cultural values associated with masculinity and public life in ancient Greece.

2. What does the term "post and lintel" describe in architecture?

- A. A type of curved archway
- B. A structure of vertical beams supporting a horizontal beam
- C. A specific roofing technique for temples
- D. A design that emphasizes open space

The term "post and lintel" refers to a fundamental architectural system where vertical supports, known as posts, bear the weight of a horizontal beam, or lintel, placed across them. This construction technique forms the basic framework for many structures, including ancient temples, houses, and modern buildings. It allows for the creation of doorways and windows by relying on the rigidity and strength of the horizontal beam while distributing weight effectively to the vertical supports. This method of construction is one of the oldest and simplest in architecture, dating back to ancient times and is pivotal in understanding how larger spaces can be enclosed while still maintaining structural integrity. It contrasts with other architectural styles such as arches and domes, which employ different principles and distribute loads in alternative ways. The use of post and lintel was crucial in the development of monumental architecture throughout history, illustrating how basic geometric principles can be applied to create functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces.

3. Which feature describes the typical structure of a Doric frieze?

- A. Regular pattern of architraves
- B. Panels and triglyphs
- C. Engaged columns
- D. Open pediments

The typical structure of a Doric frieze is characterized by the presence of panels and triglyphs, which are distinctive elements of this classical order. In the Doric frieze, the alternating arrangement consists of three vertical grooves (triglyphs) and a panel (metope) that can be plain or decorated. This repetition not only provides a rhythmic pattern but also reflects the simplicity and strength that epitomize Doric architecture. The use of triglyphs and metopes is integral to the Doric order, as it emphasizes the structural components of the temple, linking back to the traditional wooden structures that preceded stone construction. Additionally, the geometry and proportions involved in their design contribute to the overall aesthetic of balance and harmony, key principles in ancient Greek architecture. In contrast, the other options do not accurately represent the defining characteristics of a Doric frieze. Regular patterns of architraves, engaged columns, and open pediments may relate to other classical architectural elements or orders, but they do not specifically capture the unique features of the Doric frieze itself. Therefore, choosing the presence of panels and triglyphs is the correct understanding of what defines a Doric frieze.

4. What is the primary orientation of the Temple of Apollo Epikourios?

- A. East-West
- B. North-South
- C. Diagonal
- D. Random

The Temple of Apollo Epikourios, located in Bassae, is primarily oriented along a north-south axis. This orientation is significant as it aligns with the ancient Greek architectural practice of situating temples in relation to cardinal points, often for symbolic and astronomical reasons. This temple, dedicated to Apollo Epikourios, is notable for its unique construction features and the manner in which it integrates with the natural landscape, which further emphasizes its north-south alignment. The choice of a north-south orientation is also seen in the temple's structure, where the entrance and the colonnade face this direction. This choice affects how sunlight reaches the temple, enhancing its visual impact during different times of the day. Understanding the orientation helps highlight the cultural and religious significance the ancient Greeks placed on the positioning of their sacred spaces.

5. What was the primary function of the Cloaca Maxima in ancient Rome?

- A. To serve as a marketplace
- B. To provide drainage
- C. To honor deities
- D. To house government offices

The Cloaca Maxima, one of the world's earliest sewage systems, was primarily constructed to provide drainage for the city of ancient Rome. Its main function was to efficiently remove waste and stormwater from urban areas, thereby reducing the risk of flooding and maintaining public health. The system facilitated the drainage of wastewater into the Tiber River, demonstrating Roman engineering prowess. By ensuring a means of expelling sewage, the Cloaca Maxima played a crucial role in the sanitation and hygiene of the ancient city, which contributed to the overall quality of life for its inhabitants. In contrast, the other options suggest functions that do not align with this monumental engineering work. While ancient Rome had marketplaces, temples for deities, and government offices, these were separate entities, and the Cloaca Maxima was specifically designed for drainage purposes rather than serving other civic functions. Its significance goes beyond mere utility, as it reflects the Romans' understanding of urban planning and the importance of sanitation in a growing city.

6. What architectural feature is present on all four sides of the Parthenon?

- A. Doric frieze
- B. Corinthian columns
- C. Superimposed order
- D. Ionic frieze

The architectural feature present on all four sides of the Parthenon is the Doric frieze. The Parthenon, built as a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, exemplifies the classical Doric order, which is characterized by its simplicity and strength. The Doric frieze consists of alternating triglyphs (three vertical grooves) and metopes (plain or decorated panels), creating a rhythm and pattern that enhances the structure's overall aesthetic. In the context of the Parthenon, the use of the Doric frieze contributes to the iconic nature of the building and underscores its grandeur as a symbol of Athenian democracy and culture. While other styles and features are significant to the Parthenon's design—such as the Ionic columns seen on the temple's roof and the application of visual corrections in its proportions—the Doric frieze is a defining element consistently found on all sides of the structure. This underscores the Parthenon's adherence to the principles of classical architecture, where symmetry, harmony, and proportion were paramount.

7. What materials were commonly used to construct a triclinium in ancient Rome?

- A. Wood and metal
- B. Stone and marble
- C. Earth and clay
- D. Textiles and glass

In ancient Rome, a triclinium was a dining room characterized by its three couches arranged around a central table, reflecting the social and cultural practices of the time. The primary materials used for the construction of triclinium were stone and marble. Stone was common due to its durability and availability, particularly in Rome, where various types of stone were readily accessible. Marble, being a luxurious and aesthetically pleasing material, was often used to showcase wealth and status, particularly in more affluent households. The use of marble not only added elegance but also communicated the significance of dining as a communal and prestigious activity in Roman society. The lavish decoration that often accompanied marble, such as frescoes and intricate mosaics, further enhanced the importance of these spaces. These materials were not only practical for the architecture of the triclinium but also symbolically represented the social standing of the inhabitants. In contrast, other materials like wood and metal, while used in Roman architecture, were not the primary choices for the structural elements of a triclinium. Earth and clay were more suited for less permanent structures, while textiles and glass were more commonly used for decorative elements rather than for construction itself.

8. What feature is characteristic of the Basilica Nova?

- A. Complex coffered domes
- B. Compound columns
- C. Clerestory above groin vaults
- D. Triumphal arches

The Basilica Nova, also known as the Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine, is notable for its use of groin vaults, which are intersecting vaults that create a spacious and luminous interior. A significant feature of this basilica is its clerestory, a row of windows above the main arches that allows natural light to penetrate the building, enhancing the grand scale of the interior space. The clerestory successfully complements the groin vaults, providing illumination while also contributing to the overall structural integrity of the architecture. While other features like coffered domes, compound columns, and triumphal arches are found in various examples of Roman architecture, they do not specifically characterize the Basilica Nova to the same extent as the clerestory above groin vaults. The design of the Basilica Nova exemplifies Roman innovations in architecture, particularly in how light and space were skillfully manipulated to create a dramatic effect within large public buildings.

9. What structure is known as a predecessor to the modern amphitheater in Rome?

A. Theater of Marcellus

B. Baths of Diocletian

C. Markets of Trajan

D. Column of Trajan

The Theater of Marcellus is recognized as a significant predecessor to the modern amphitheater in Rome due to its design and function in the context of Roman entertainment architecture. Built between 33 and 13 BCE, it served as a prime location for theatrical performances and was notable for its semi-circular shape, tiered seating, and elaborate stone construction. The structure combined elements of earlier Greek theaters with innovations that would later be adapted in the design of amphitheaters, particularly the way it accommodated large audiences. By fitting into urban landscapes and serving as a multifunctional space, it established a typology that would influence the grand amphitheaters that followed, such as the Colosseum. Other options, while important in the context of Roman architecture, do not share the same direct lineage to the concept of an amphitheater. The Baths of Diocletian served primarily as a leisure and bathing complex. The Markets of Trajan were a commercial complex featuring shops and administrative areas, while the Column of Trajan is a monumental pillar commemorating the emperor's victories, rather than a venue for public entertainment. Thus, the Theater of Marcellus stands out as the definitive predecessor in this regard.

10. What significant structure is associated with Diocletian's reign?

A. The Roman Forum

B. The Colosseum

C. The Roman Baths

D. The Pantheon

The significant structure associated with Diocletian's reign is the Roman Baths, known as the Baths of Diocletian. This extensive complex, constructed between 298 and 306 AD in Rome, was one of the largest and most luxurious bathing establishments of its time. It showcased the height of Roman engineering and public architecture, featuring elaborate systems for heating water and impressive vaulted ceilings. Diocletian not only expanded the traditional concept of baths but also integrated them into a larger social and recreational complex, emphasizing their importance in Roman culture. The baths served not just as a place for hygiene but also as a center for social interaction, relaxation, and leisure. This demonstrates Diocletian's focus on public works and the enhancement of civic life, which were hallmarks of his reign. The other structures, while significant in their own right, are not directly associated with Diocletian's rule. The Roman Forum served as the heart of political life, the Colosseum was primarily associated with Vespasian and his son Titus, and the Pantheon, although completed during Hadrian's reign, represents an earlier period of Roman architectural achievement. Understanding the context of Diocletian's contributions helps clarify why the Baths of Diocletian