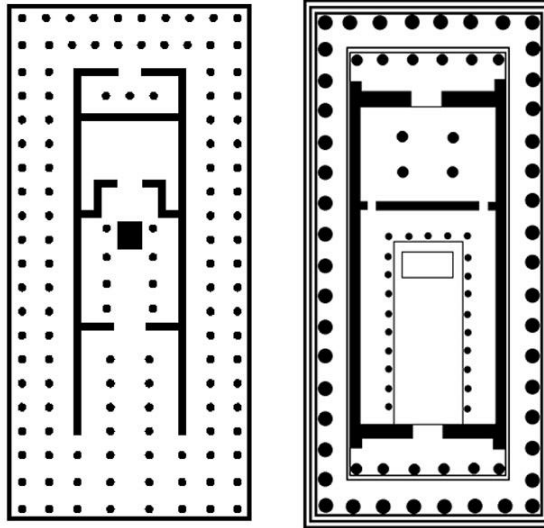


Temple of Artemis | Sample answer

2009 Higher Level Exam Question

This photo shows the plan of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



(a) *In which order of Greek architecture is this temple built? (5)*

Answer = Ionic order.

(b) *What materials were used in its construction? (10)*

Answer = any two from marble, wood, terracotta. (5+5)

Note: The roof was wooden and the tiles were terracotta.

(c) *Give a full description of this temple, using correct architectural terms. (35)*

See Richter page 29.

Examiners will look for a full range of comments — stylobate, naos, columns, inner walls etc.

Answer = this temple has 8 Ionic columns at one end (width) and 9 Ionic columns on the other end (width). Hence the width is uneven which is unusual. This temple has 21 Ionic columns at the sides (length). Therefore it is larger than the canonical temple which had 6 columns at the ends (width) and 13 columns at the sides (length).

It is an Ionic order temple. Therefore the columns are more decorative than the earlier Doric columns/temples. These columns have drums and fluting. The capitals were decorative and consist of a volute and an abacus. The bottom drums of some of the ionic columns in this temple were sculpted — a feature evidently inspired by Egyptian and Mesopotamian prototypes. All of the columns that I have mentioned so far rested on the stylobate.

This temple was built in the archaic period and was then rebuilt in the fourth century B.C. This temple is dipteral. It has a deep pronaos and a shallow opisthodomos. In the pronaos there are three rows of four ionic columns. They would have provided additional support for the temple. There is a row of three ionic columns in the opisthodomos. As the temple was dedicated to the goddess of Artemis, there probably would have been a statue base in the cellar.