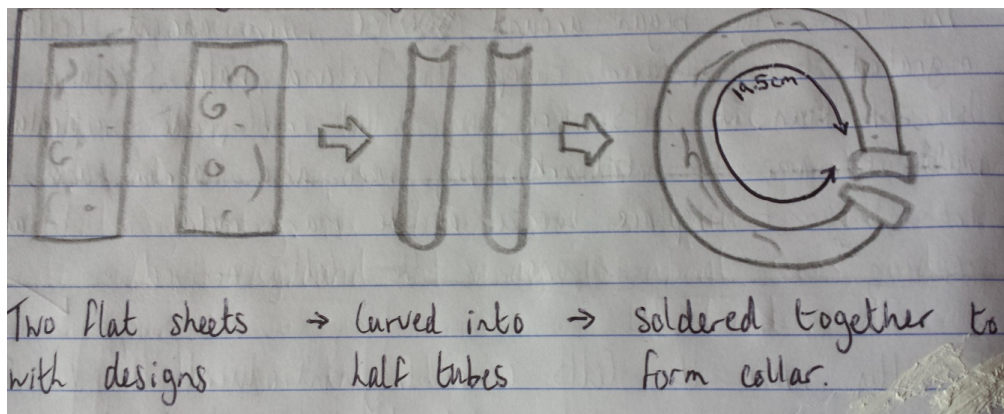


Iron Age Sample Exam Style Question

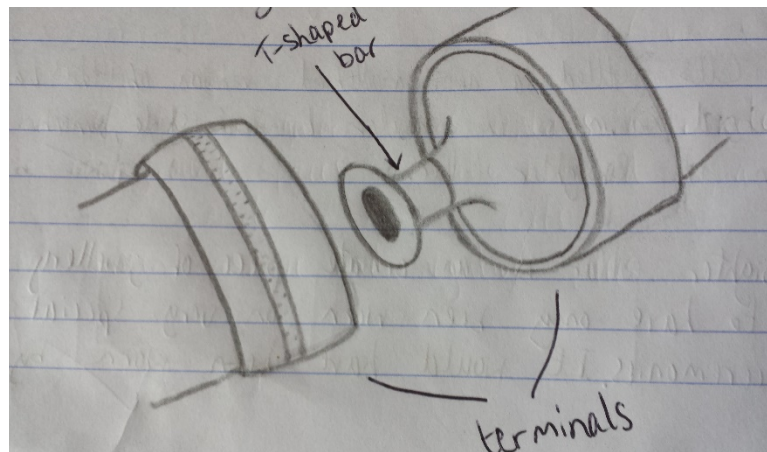
The Broighter Collar is an example of a remarkable change in style that took place during the Iron Age. Discuss this statement referring to the function, form and style of the Broighter collar, materials and techniques used in its production and decoration AND name and describe one example of decorative stone carving from this period. Illustrate your answer.

The Iron Age began around 350 BC, when ancient Celts migrated from all over Europe to Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The Celts were very skilled craftspeople, particularly when it came to metalwork. They were also warriors and horsemen. Iron began to replace bronze as the main metal in Ireland for producing tools and weapons as the Celts arrived. Originally when the Celts came they introduced the La Tené style in metalwork which mainly consisted of leafy palmate forms, vines, tendrils, scrolls, lotus flowers, spirals, lyre and trumpet shapes to create abstract designs. As the Celts settled, a new modified version of the La Tené style emerged, known as the Insular La Tené style, used to design the Broighter collar.

The Broighter collar is an ornate piece of jewellery which is believed to have been worn on very special occasions, usually ceremonies. It would have been worn by wealthy individuals of high status. It has a diameter of 19.5 cm and is made from sheet gold. The design would have been chased onto the gold while it was still flat. Then the two flat pieces were rolled into half tubes and soldered together, finally filled with hot mastic (a wax-like substance) to prevent the gold from tearing or being crushed inward.

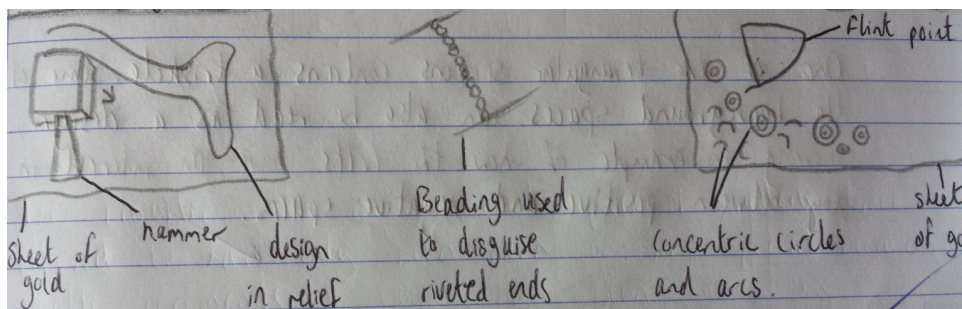
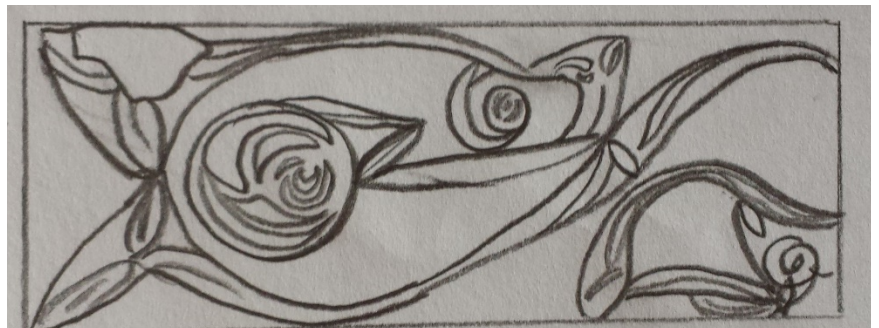


Two terminals are riveted on to the ends of the tube to act as a fastening device known as a mortice and tenon. A T-shaped bar is used as a lock which holds the terminals together.



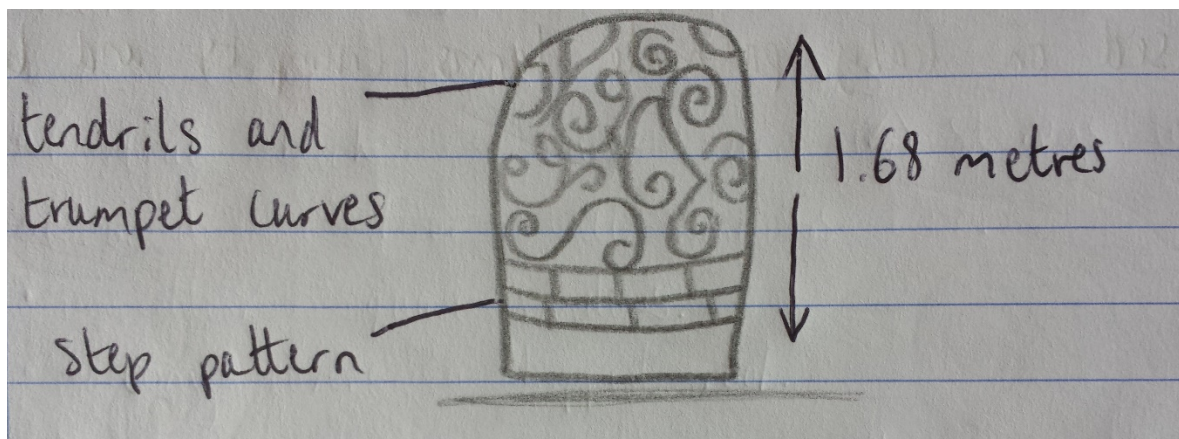
The Broighter collar is designed with the Insular La Tené style. This was the style used by the first native craftsmen in Ireland and marks a remarkable change in style in the Iron Age. The pattern is symmetrical and is based on interconnecting S-scrolls. It featured stylised plant based forms and spiral bosses, which were made separately and pinned on. Before this style there was La Tené, which mainly focused on leafy palmate forms, trumpets and lyres.

The intricate curvilinear raised patterns were formed by using the chasing technique, where the surrounding area of the design is hammered inward, bringing the pattern into relief. A row of beading was added to the terminals to disguise the riveted ends and the background area was incised with concentric circles and arcs to create contrast with the smooth surface of the raised pattern.

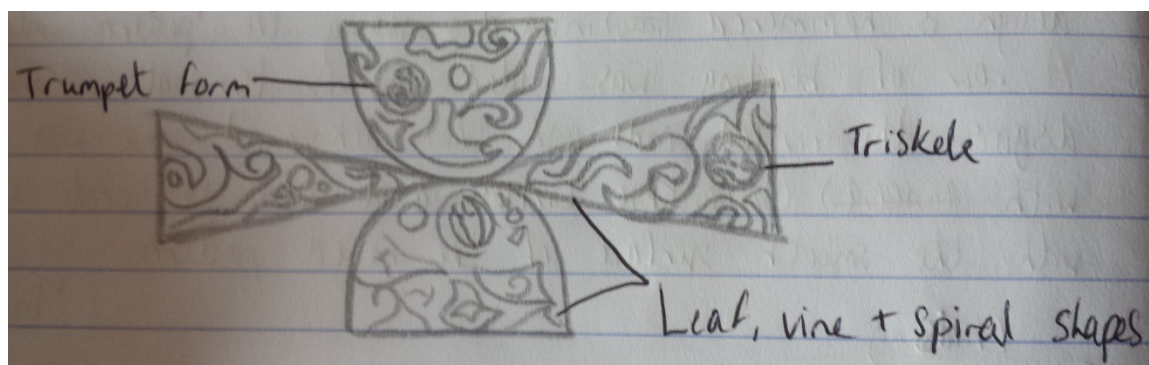


One example of decorative stone carving from the Iron Age is the Turoe Stone, found in Turoe, Co. Tipperary. It has been dated to 50 BC, weighs 4 tonnes, is 1.68 m high and is a boulder

made from pink Galway granite. The stone was originally in Connemara but was moved by the last Ice Age to Loughrea, where a Celtic stonemason worked on it.



The pattern on the Turoe Stone is one of abstract leaf and vine shapes, trumpet ends and spirals all in casual symmetry. The design was sculpted in low relief, with the background cut away to about 3 cm, and is in four parts; two semi-circles on the front and back and two triangles on the sides.



One of the triangular sections contains a triskele. Some of the background spaces can also be read as a design, showing an example of how the Celts had an interest in the play between positive and negative spaces.