

CLASSICAL SCULPTURE

Lesson 2.2. Classical Greek sculpture

IES VILATZARA
Javier Muro

1. Look at these images and do the following exercises:



DISCOBOLUS – Myron – 450 B.C.



DORYPHOROS – Polykleitos – 440 B.C.



DIADUMENOS – Polykleitos – 430 B.C.

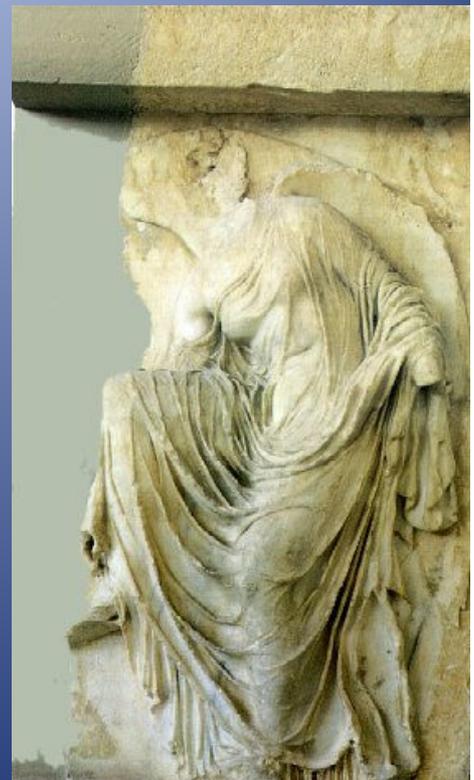


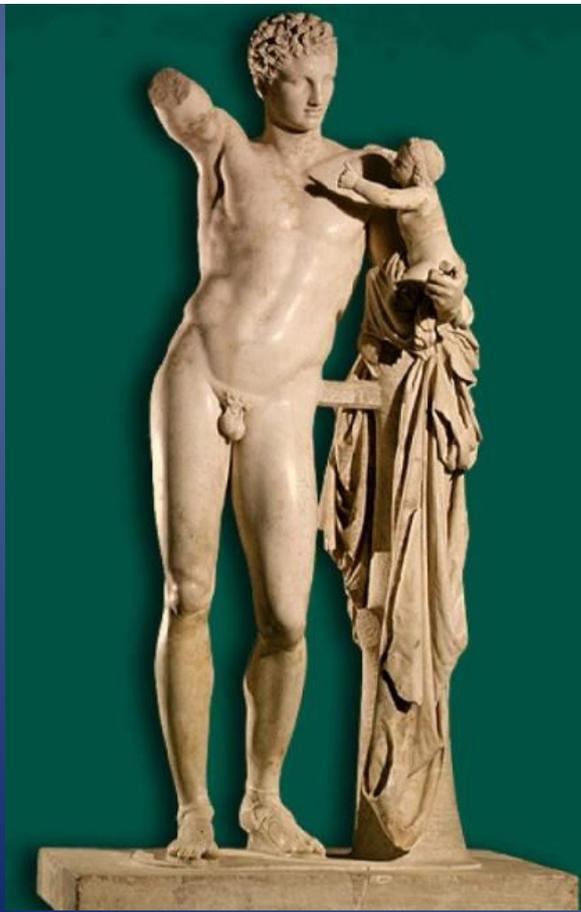
FRIEZE PARTHENON: POSIDON, APOLO AND ARTEMIS – Phidias – 440 B.C



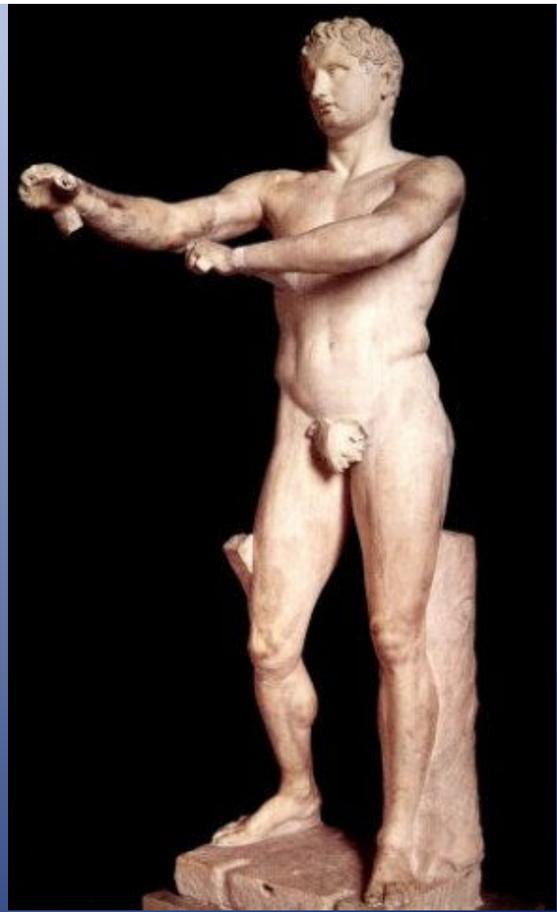
**Figures of three goddesses from the east pediment of the Parthenon: Hestia, Dione and Aphrodite
The Acropolis, Athens, 438-432 B.C.**

**Nike adjusting her sandal.
Fragment of a relief from the temple of Athena Nike,
Acropolis, Athens.
411-407 B.C.**





HERMES – Praxiteles – 343 B.C.



APOXYOMENOS – Lysippos– 320 B.C.

1.1 Translate the following adjectives and relate them with each one of the previous images in the grid below:

ADJECTIVES	ADJECTIVES	TRANSLATION
COLD	WARM	
NICE	UNPLEASANT NASTY	
TENSE	RELAXED	
NATURALISTIC	ARTIFICIAL UNNATURAL	
WEAK	STRONG	
HAPPY CHEERFUL	MELANCHOLIC GLOOMY	
CALMING SOOTHING	DISTRESSING ANGUISHED	
EXPRESSIVE	INEXPRESSIVE	
TENDER	AGRESSIVE	
BALANCED	UNBALANCED	

ARTWORK

1.

3.

5.

7.

2.

4.

6.

8.

1.2. Now write a sentence for each artwork using some of the following sentence starters:

- The composition is _____
- _____ face is /is not _____
- _____ express _____
- Movement is / is not _____
- _____ is represented / depicted _____
- _____ body / face / expression / is more / less _____ than _____
- ... as we can see in _____

2. Read, individually, this text:

STUDENT A

Protagoras's concept that 'man is the measure of all things' found its more complete visual expression in the work of **Polykleitos** (fifth century B.C.), for instance the *Doryphoros* and the *Diadumenus*, in which the human body has a main role.

The *canon* is a system of rules by which the human figure is represented. The average human body in **Polykleitos'** canon is seven times as tall as the height of its head, and the arm span is approximately equal to the height of a human figure. Later, **Lysippos** applied a new proportional system to the figures, reducing the size of the head and the arms to make his statues appear taller.

Classical Greek sculptors carved idealized figures that represented a generalized ideal of beauty at the expense of individual characteristics, and that is why the statues are usually expressionless. They are always perfect so they represent men as gods and gods as men.

Phidias is one of most famous classical sculptors of the fifth century B.C. and he was responsible for the colossal gold and ivory statue of Athena at Athens and he designed the *Partenon's sculptures* such as the 160 m. relief depicting the *Great Pannathenaia*.

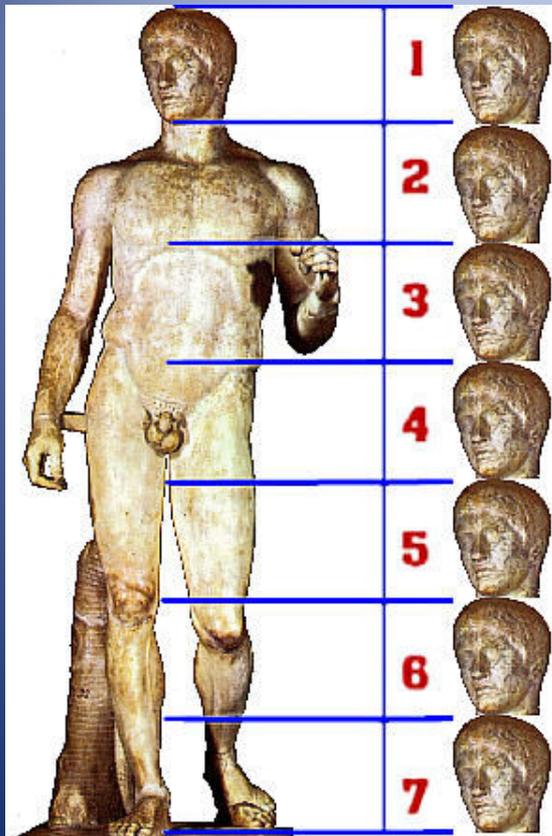
STUDENT B

The term *Classical* refers to a style of sculpted figures of naturalistic representation of the human body (muscles, joints and draperies) and also refers to clear proportions (Canon), where each part of the body is related proportionally to the rest of the body. For the Greeks, a statue sculpted according to the Canon was a visualization of the values of truth, beauty, and goodness.

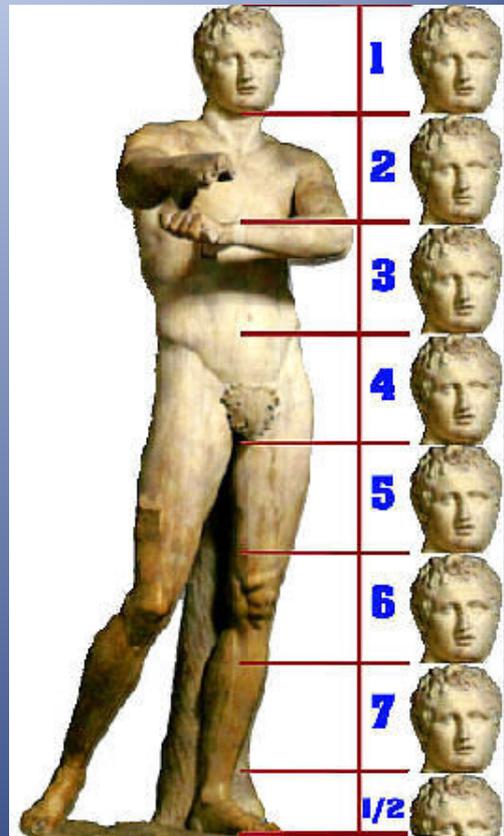
The composition is based in the *contrapposto* : The pose of the human figure is described as the perfect compromise between movement and repose because the weight of the body rests on one leg, so the torso curves and the other side is in opposition. The composition produces a sinuous and regular curve through the body, with a slight inclination of the head.

Three sculptors of the fourth century B.C. (**Praxiteles**, **Skopas** and **Lysippos**) moved sculpture in new directions: more complex poses, different proportions with smaller heads, more complex movements and more unbalanced figures, with representations of the human figure in different ages, characters and emotions.

No original statue by **Polykleitos** has survived, but there is archaeological evidence that Roman sculptors carved many *copies in marble* of the original Greek bronze artworks.



Canon of Polykleytos



Canon of Lysippos

w3.cnice.mec.es/.../arte/x-antigu/gre-cano.htm

3. In pairs, answer the following questions about the Classical Greek sculpture using the previous information:

3.1. What is the main theme of these sculptures? Why?

3.2. Indicate the main four formal features of the Greek classic sculpture.

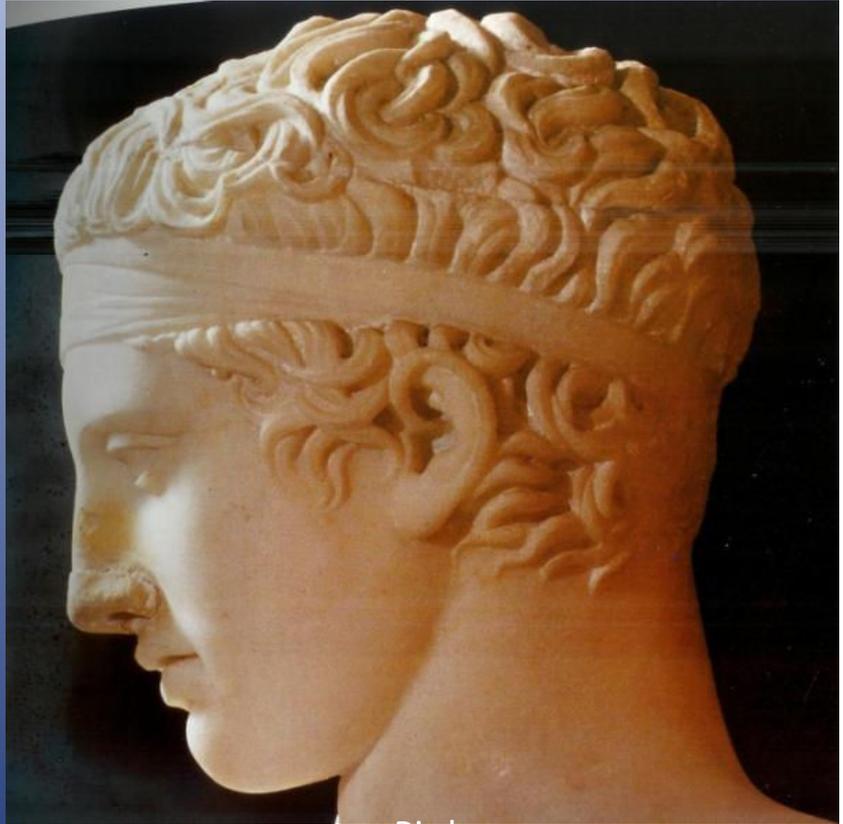
3.3. Which are the main Greek sculptors of the classical style in the 5th and 4th centuries B.C.?

3.4. Explain the evolution of the Greek classical sculpture during the fourth century B.C.

3.5. Most Greek classical sculptures that we admire are copies. Who made those copies?

5th CENTURY

POLYKLEITOS



Diadumenus



Wounded Amazon - Polykleitos - 440 B.C.

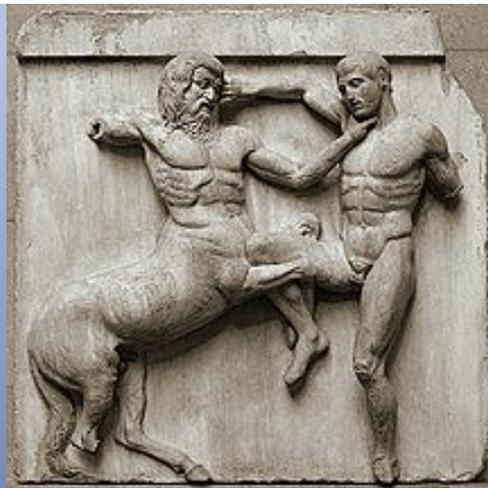
The original of this statue won first prize in a competition at *Ephesos* in which *Polykleitos*, *Pheidias*, *Kresilas*, *Kydon* and *Phradmon* took part.

www.sikyon.com/.../Polykleitos/polycl_egg3.html



Pediments of Parthenon





4th CENTURY



PRAXITELES

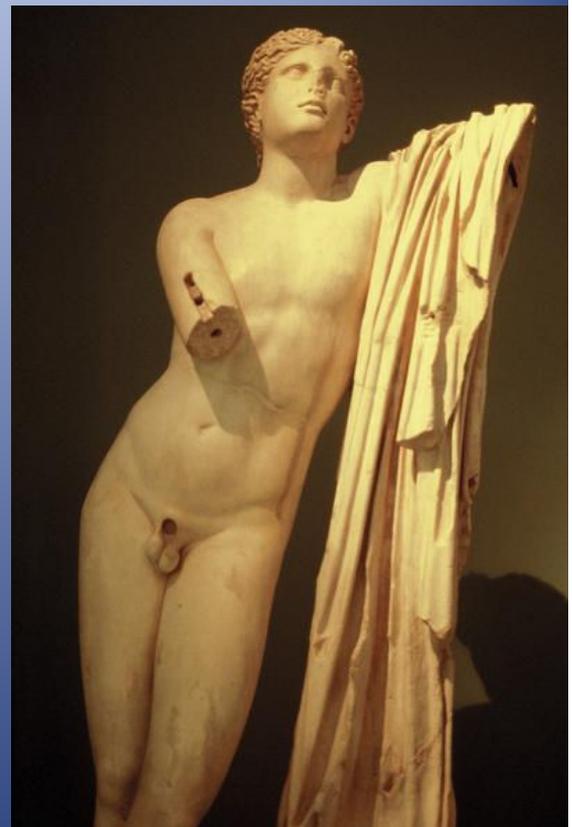


SATYR ca.340 BC, probably by Praxiteles.
Rome, Museo Capitolino,

SKOPAS



Dancing Manade
2nd half, 4th c.BCE



LYSIPPOS



<http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/Arts/ApoxyomenosPioClementinoInv1185b.html>

web.educastur.princast.es/.../GRECIA/2clasic.htm



HERMES – LYSIPPOS
ca. 350 B.C.

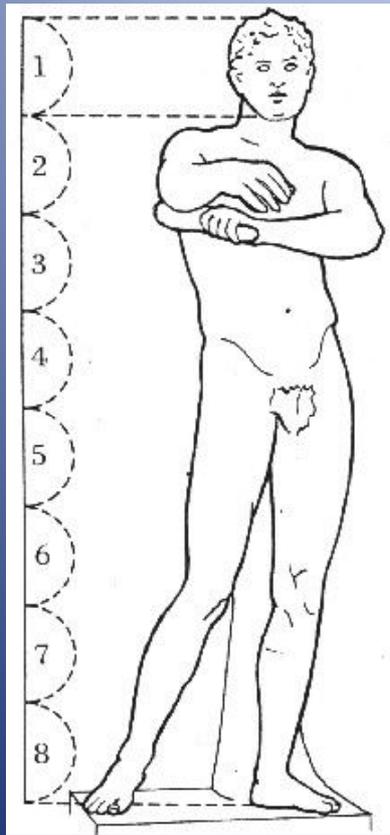
www.karlkreuzer.de/62547.html?*session*id*key...



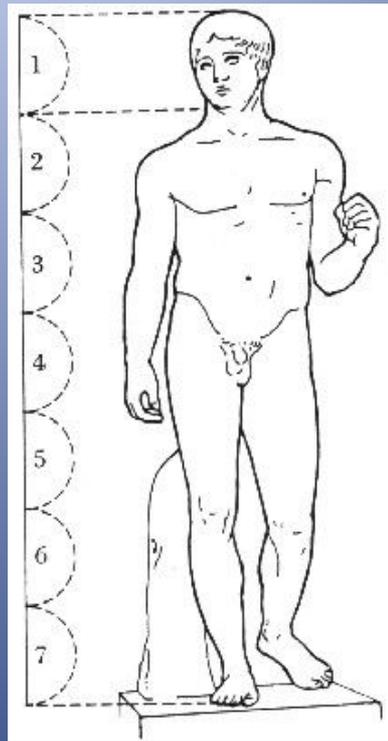
APHRODITE OF CAPUA
ca. 330 – 320 B.C.



www.kzu.ch/.../myth/goetter/aphrodite/aphr12.htm

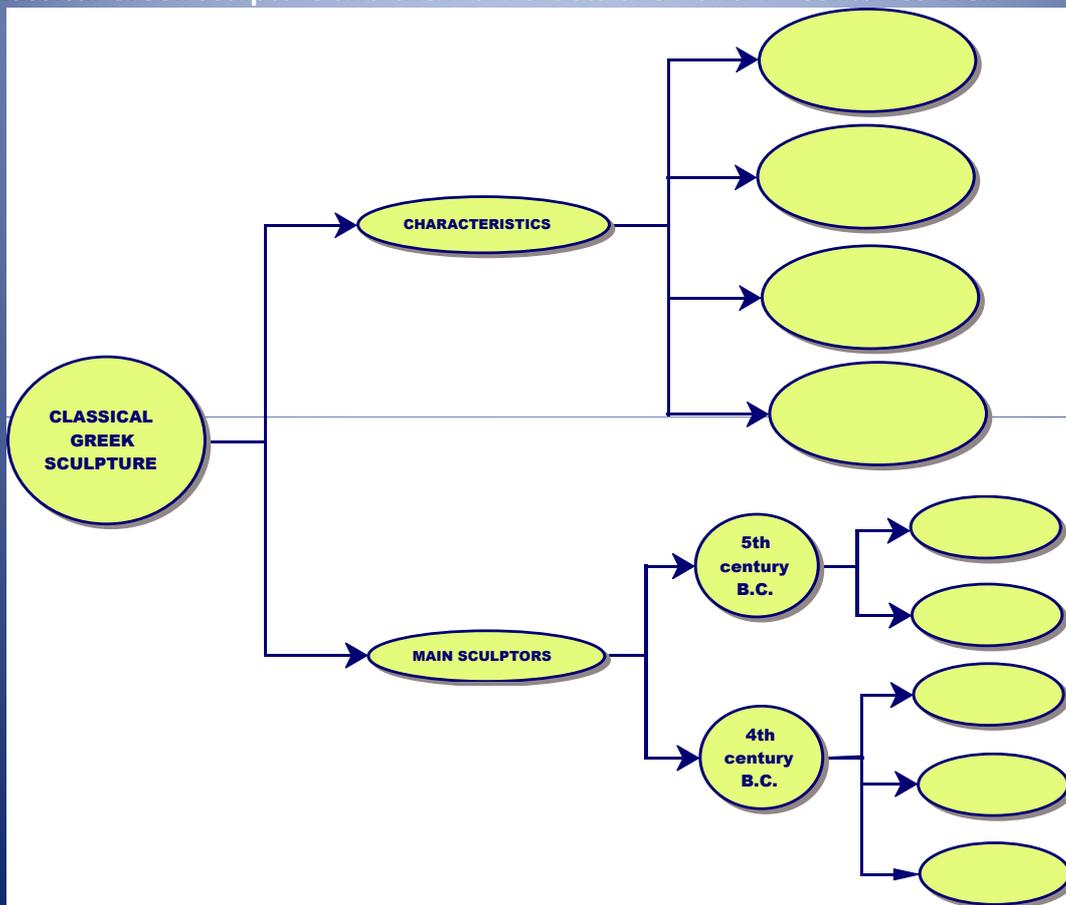


Canon of Lysippos



Canon of Polykleitos

4. Complete the diagram below according to the previous information about the main features of the Classical Greek sculpture and the main artists of 5th and 4th centuries B.C.:



5.

1

2

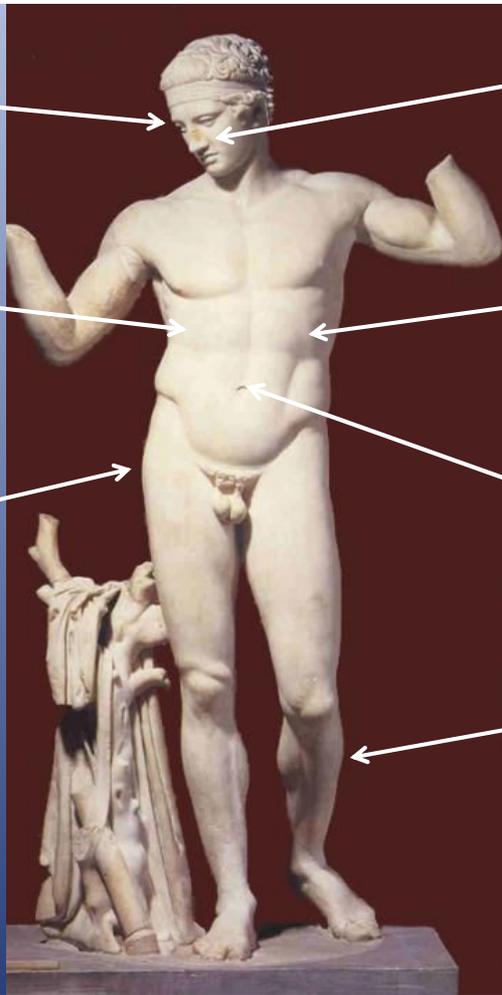
3

4

6

5

7



**EXPRESSIONLESS
FACE**

1

SERENITY

2

PROPORTIONED BODY

3

NATURALISM

4

CONTRAPPOSTO

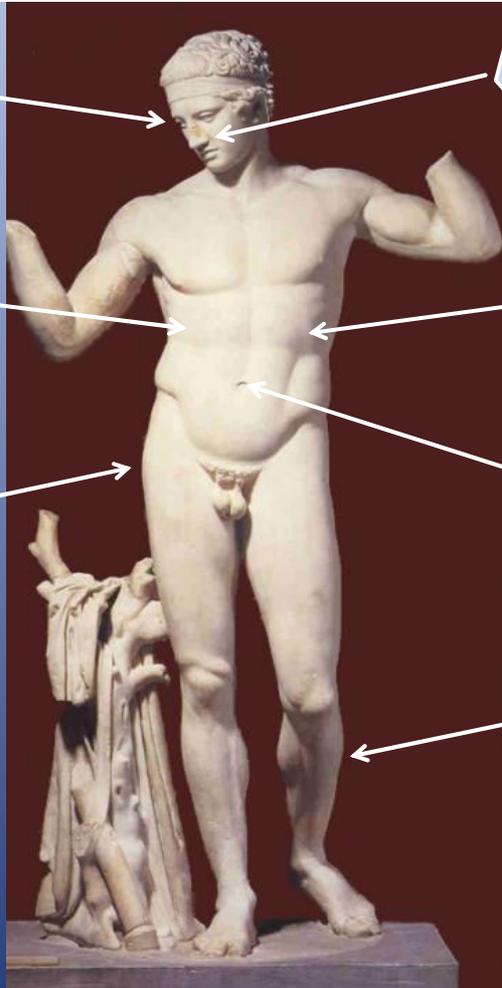
6

PERFECT BODY

5

**BALANCE
MOVEMENT –
REPOSE**

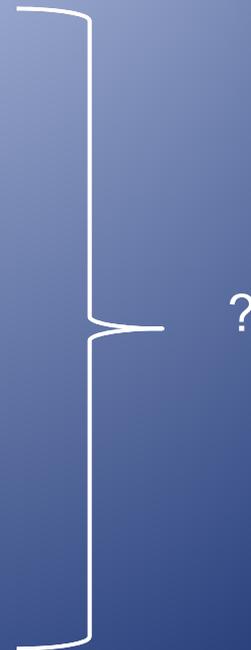
7



6. ASKING AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS (5 Ws)

Using the following 5 Ws prepare two questions for asking classmates:

- WHAT
- WHO
- WHEN
- WHERE
- WHY



7. Read the following sentences about Classical Greek sculpture and indicate if they are true (T) or false (F). If they are false rewrite them correctly:

i) Polykleitos and Doryphoros are the most important sculptors of this period.....

ii) Beauty is based in naturalistic and proportional human bodies.....

iii) Parthenon sculptures were designed by Praxiteles

iv) Intense expressivity is one of the basic features of this style

v) Movement and repose are clearly balanced

vi) Canon 7 was used by Polykleitos in his statues, which are known by Greek copies...

vii) Anguished expressions are common in these statues

viii) In the 4th century B.C. sculptors are Phidias and Praxiteles introduced more complex movements and emotions in their artworks

ix) Idealisation is achieved through balance, harmony and serenity

x) Contrapposto is described as the different disposition of each arm and leg

Greek Vocabulary

Discobolus

The Discus Thrower



Doryphoros

Spear Carrier or Spear Bearer



Diadumenos

The "Diadem Wearer"



Apoxyomenos

The Scrapper"; a young athlete scraping himself with a strigil

