

LOOKING AT A VASE - CLUES TO WHO? WHEN? WHY?

1. **Overall shape**
 - a) indicates its purpose
 - b) gives its proportions - handle, height, width

2. **"Internal" structure**
 - a) Way vase is marked out - integration of handles, division of neck, foot, lip from body
 - b) Matching of decoration to shapes and format

3. **Decoration of surface**
 - a) Black or red figure
 - b) Geometric, friezes, florals, bands
 - c) Single figures, groups, crowds, lines
 - d) Space, filled with dots, flowers, words or left clear for black glaze

4. **Style of painting**
 - a) Detail of incision or paint work
 - b) Variety of line - thick, thin, suggestive
 - c) Use of colour
 - d) Perspective: "overlapping": silhouette

5. **Representational technique**
 - a) Human figures
 - i) head - detail, colour
 - ii) profile, frontal
 - iii) anatomy, movement
 - iv) dress
 - b) Incidentals
 - i) natural, idealised
 - ii) distorted, space filling
 - iii) space, narrative

6. **Story in picture**
 - a) "Reminder" of myth
 - b) Comment on myth
 - c) Moment of everyday life
 - d) Realism or fantasy
 - e) Motive - celebratory or memorial

7. **Individual mannerisms**
 - a) idiosyncratic trait of painter
 - b) peculiarity of school