

Framework for examining historical artefacts

Physical Features

- What colour is it?
- What does it look like? (shape,size)
- What does it feel like? (texture,temperature, weight)
- What does it sound like? (hollow, tinny, solid)
- Is it a natural or manufactured substance?
- Are there any inscriptions?

Construction

- Is it handmade or machine made?
- Was it made in pieces? Or in one piece?
- Are there signs that it was made in a mould?
- What was it made of? (wood, metal, clay/pottery, plastic, fabric)

Function

- What is the purpose of the object?
- Has it been used?
- Who might have used it?
- Has the use changed?

Condition

- Has it been altered, adapted or mended?
- Are there signs that it may have been damaged or worn?
- Is the object complete?

Design

- Does it do the job it was intended to do well?
- Were the best materials used?
- How is it decorated?
- Would it have been easy to use?
- Do you like the way it looks?

