

## **Beauty – Teacher’s notes**

What makes things beautiful?

Is all ‘beauty in the eye of the beholder’, or is there also such thing as objective beauty?

What kinds of things could be beautiful?

### **Diotima’s Ladder: From Lust to Morality**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYC74mJ-4po>

Can morality be related to beauty? What about the effects of beauty, can lust lead to morality?

What did Diotima teach on this?

Where does the ladder lead? (also check ‘rung of a ladder’)

What must you first do?

What will happen to you then, if you are rational? Why?

What is the next step up the ladder?

How about the last step? What qualities does this bring with it?

### **Feminine Beauty: A social construct?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT6wjgssVK4>

What do people know about Simone de Beauvois? (Existentialist writer)

How far is the identity of ‘being a woman’ a social construct? Who by?

What makes women feminine and why are they expected to strive after beauty?

What has been the role of women in history, what did men encourage them to be?

Why should they use artifice? (clever or cunning devices or expedients, especially as used to trick or deceive others.)

What pressures are there, especially on young women?

What does Beauvoir say about this?

### **The Golden Ratio**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bDJDvNgoj0>

Can abstract ideas be beautiful? Can science be beautiful? What about maths?

How do you draw a golden rectangle?

How long is the side of the square? What is this number called? (1.618033988199895...)

What are the satisfying properties of this?

What happens if you ‘join up the dots’?

Where else does this pattern occur?

### **Edmund Burke on the Sublime**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0fHjIPpR-Q>

Can anyone define sublime?

What’s the difference in the way the sublime moves us from simply beautiful?

What kind of objects are beautiful? What about sublime one?

What feelings do they both produce in us? And how do they affect us?

What is it about a cliff face or a waterfall?

What did this influence? What did they extol?