The materials included in these files are intended for non-commercial use by AP teachers for course and exam preparation; permission for any other use must be sought from the Advanced Placement Program. Teachers may reproduce them, in whole or in part, in limited quantities, for face-to-face teaching purposes but may not mass distribute the materials, electronically or otherwise. These materials and any copies made of them may not be resold, and the copyright notices must be retained as they appear here. This permission does not apply to any third-party copyrights contained herein.
7. These two paintings depict similar subjects. Which work is earlier? Explain your choice, comparing and contrasting the two images. (10 minutes)

The Madonna and Child is a religious subject matter common from early Byzantine/Middle Ages through modern time. The depiction on the left is clearly several centuries older than that on the right. Although a sense of depth was attempted through clustering and use of architectural space— the inadequate knowledge of foreshortening and spatial perspective reduces this illusion to minimal. The stronger yellow tones is also an indicator of age as the off-coloration is a result of the use of egg tempera, while the rich colors of the full round figure on the right are not yellowed. The unnatural composition of Madonna and the man-like Child also indicate age. The Madonna here is the queen of heaven—sitting high on her throne in a state of grace, the gold halo is common of gothic art.

The natural humanistic approach in Madonna and Child of KE indicates a late movement of art. The faces are round and real composed naturally in a variety of movement—not stiff like the earlier. The love between Mary and Jesus in a worldly motherly love—Mary is real. The harsh usage of the shadows is also gone and replaced by familiarity. A sense of depth has been established by atmospheric perspective, accurate foreshortening and support.
7. These two paintings depict similar subjects. Which work is earlier? Explain your choice, comparing and contrasting the two images. (10 minutes)

Both the piece by Cimabue (on the left) and the Small Cowper Madonna (right) depict the Virgin Mary holding the Christ child. Cimabue's piece is the earlier of the two, and this is shown by the more advanced use of shadow in the Cowper Madonna. The figures appear more rounded and naturalistically portrayed in the Cowper Madonna in contrast with somewhat flat-looking figures in Cimabue's Virgin and Child Enthroned. This is another characteristic of these paintings that leads the viewer to see Cimabue as an earlier work. Also, Virgin and Child Enthroned has much less depth than the Cowper Madonna.