AP® Art History
Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free Response Question 3

☑ **Scoring Guideline**

☑ **Student Samples**

☑ **Scoring Commentary**

AP® ART HISTORY
2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

The work shown is *Last Supper,* painted by Leonardo da Vinci between 1494 and 1498 C.E.

Describe how Leonardo created a sense of depth.

Describe how Leonardo represented the figures.

Using specific visual evidence, explain <u>at least two</u> ways in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.

Explain how these visual characteristics of *Last Supper* are typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked.

Scoring Criteria

Task		Points
1	Accurately describes how Leonardo created a sense of depth.	1 point
2	Accurately describes how Leonardo represented the figures.	1 point
3	Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain ONE way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.	1 point
4	Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain ANOTHER way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.	1 point
5	Accurately explains how ONE visual characteristic of *Last Supper* is typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked.	1 point
Total Possible Score		**5 points**

Scoring Notes

1	**Accurately describes how Leonardo created a sense of depth.** • **Linear one-point perspective** with orthogonal lines visible on the ceiling, on the line of wall hangings, and on the floor. • **Modeling/chiaroscuro** used to create a sense of three-dimensionality in the forms. • Use of **foreshortening** to make the figures appear to be three-dimensional. • Windows in the background that allow a view into the landscape beyond depicted using **atmospheric perspective**. • Natural light on the figures corresponds to the **actual windows in the refectory.**
2	**Accurately describes how Leonardo represented the figures.** • The disciples each show a **distinct emotion** that is conveyed through facial expressions and gestures. • The setting is simple, which focuses attention on the **emotional intensity of the group**. • Through the use of foreshortening and modeling, **figures appear to exist realistically in space**. • Apostles have **differentiated poses**, especially in regard to facial expressions and individualized, dramatic hand gestures. • Apostles, arranged in **four groups of three**, are interacting with each other and register **different emotional responses** to the announcement that one of the apostles will betray Christ. • **Judas is differentiated** from other apostles by his intense and shadowed facial expression. • All of the apostles sit on **one side of the table facing the viewer**.
3	**Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain ONE way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.** • The composition positions **Christ in the center** surrounded by specific groupings of apostles. • Christ is the focal point of the one-point perspective system with all of the orthogonal lines in the composition meeting **at a vanishing point near Christ's head.** • The light from the window directly behind Christ **creates a halo effect**. • The **circular pediment above the window** (the only curved element in the architecture) also contributes to the effect of a halo. • Christ, unlike the apostles, has a **tranquil** and serious expression that reinforces the contrast between the divinity of Christ and the humanity of the apostles. • Christ appears **isolated,** in contrast to the apostles being clustered in groups. • Christ fits within an **equilateral triangle**, creating a stable center. • Christ stretches his **hands toward the bread and wine on the table.**
4	**Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain ANOTHER way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.** See above.

5	**Accurately explains how ONE visual characteristic of *Last Supper* is typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked.**
	• Leonardo was working from **direct observation** of the natural world and the human body, which led to heightened realism and naturalism. Leonardo used **live models** in doing preparatory sketches of these figures.
	• Ground-breaking artistic studies in **anatomy**, including Leonardo's participation in dissections, enhanced the depiction of figures.
	• Leonardo used **a one-point perspective system, which was first developed in Florence** in the early 15th century and became a standard technique that Renaissance artists used to depict spatial depth.
	• **Humanism** fueled the artistic depiction of **individual characteristics** and emotions.
	• Leonardo embraced **classical idealism** expressed through mathematics (geometry) of the space, figures, and architecture.
	• **New iconography** developed, such as dispensing with gold haloes in favor of natural light and placing Judas amongst the other apostles rather than being isolated.
	• The Christian subject matter **reflects the importance of patronage** by the Catholic Church and wealthy patrons. *Last Supper* images were commonly found in monastic refectories in this period.
	• Leonardo used the **new medium of oil paint** and/or the **revival of fresco painting** to represent Renaissance interests in experimentation and the classical past.

3. The work shown is *Last Supper,* painted by Leonardo da Vinci between 1494 and 1498 C.E.

Describe how Leonardo created a sense of depth.

Describe how Leonardo represented the figures.

Using specific visual evidence, explain at least two ways in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.

Explain how these visual characteristics of *Last Supper* are typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked. humanism, individualism (figures), interest in classical forms

The Last Supper, created by Leonardo da Vinci from 1494-1498 CE of oil and tempera uses a sense of depth, represent arrange the disciples, and an emphasis on Christ to draw a parallel between the Last Supper and the impending reflecting individual reactions, using visual characteristics typical of the Renaissance.

The method Da Vinci uses to create a sense of depth in his work in linear perspective. From the surface of the table to the receding and converging lines of the wall and ceiling, da Vinci uses linear perspective to add naturalness, depth to his painting. As the walls of the depiction "recede" into space, the doorways become smaller and closer together, fooling the eye into perceiving increased distance as they decrease in size. In addition, da Vinci uses modeling and shading to enhance the sense of depth. Each figure in the foreground centers shadows and 3D rendering of their forms, and the architectural space behind them becomes darker as it appears to recede.

Da Vinci represented the figures of Christ's disciples with Renaissance values of individualism, giving each figure a unique and personal reaction to Christ's declaration that one of them will betray him. Furthermore, figures are gathered into groups of three, allowing for more personal interactions among them. For example, the grouping on the far left all share a reaction of disbelief, sharing a pointed gesture towards Christ, yet all show different facial expressions, indicating individual reactions to the news. Similarly, Judas,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

In the second grouping from the left, shows a highly individualized response, as he is the disciple who will betray Jesus. He is depicted as darker than the rest of the disciples, deriving from a long tradition of iconography in which evil is depicted darker. In addition, he clutches his money bag indicating that he has sold out Christ.

Leonardo has placed emphasis on Christ by placing him above, giving him a subtle halo, and placing an empty space on his head. Placing Christ alone serves to set him apart from the disciples, indicating that he is special. In addition, both the domed architecture overhead and the window behind him serve as a sort of halo, indicating his divinity and thus emphasizing him. Finally, Christ's importance is emphasized by the choice of making all the lines of linear perspective in the painting converge to his head. Even the triangular form of his torso and arms leads the viewer's eye to his head, emphasizing him.

The use of linear perspective and classical modeling of forms references the Renaissance revival of revived interest in the classical and Neoplatonism. In addition, the individualistic characteristics of the depictions of the disciples indicate a work typical of the Renaissance, ideals of individualism and humanism, derived from empirical studies of classical art, architecture and literature from Ancient Greece and Rome.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

3. The work shown is *Last Supper,* painted by Leonardo da Vinci between 1494 and 1498 C.E.

Describe how Leonardo created a sense of depth.

Describe how Leonardo represented the figures.

Using specific visual evidence, explain at least two ways in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.

Explain how these visual characteristics of *Last Supper* are typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked.

The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci is one of the most recognizable paintings in history. The sense of depth, which was created by picking a vanishing point then essentially getting a string and drawing lines from the vanishing point to the foreground, is one of the most revolutionary acts of art of all time. Leonardo created the vanishing point behind Christ's head to put emphasis on him, along with making the natural light come from the back of his head, like a halo. He also made him the center of the painting, and made him bright. These techniques are typical to the Renneissance due to the subject, Christ, the realism, the triangular structure, the colors are saturated, and the emphasis on Christ.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

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Explain how these visual characteristics of *Last Supper* are typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked.

Leonardo creates a sense of depth as he shadows the background and centers the work around Jesus. Each door, diagnol or roof leads to Jesus. Leonardo represents the figures in distreat or in surprise as Jesus tells them someone will betray him. Also, they look at Jesus telling him it is not them who will betray him.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

AP® ART HISTORY
2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

This question asked students to describe visual features of Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*, a work from Early Europe and Colonial Americas (200-1750 C.E.). Specifically, the question asked students to describe how depth was created, how the figures were represented, and how Christ was emphasized in the painting. Students then needed to explain how one visual characteristic in the painting is typical of the Renaissance era. The intent of the question was to give students the opportunity to make accurate observations using appropriate art historical language, justify observations with explanation and connect visual features to the broader context.

Sample: 3A
Score: 5

Task 1: Accurately describes how Leonardo created a sense of depth. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing how Leonardo created a sense of depth in the painting. The student describes how linear perspective adds "mathematical depth to his painting," creating the illusion of depth ("fooling the eye") through the use of "receding and converging lines." Additionally, the student describes how light is used to create a sense of depth: "modeling and shading enhance the sense of depth," creating a "3D rendering" of forms and an architectural space that "becomes darker as it appears to recede." While this second explanation is not needed to receive the point, it enhances the quality of the response.

Task 2: Accurately describes how Leonardo represented the figures. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing how Leonardo represented the figures. The student states that "Christ's disciples" are represented with the "values of individualism," as they each display a "unique and personal reaction" to "Christ's declaration that one of them will betray him." Figures "all show different facial expressions." For example, the betrayer, Judas, "in the second grouping from the left," is shown "darker than the rest of the disciples, drawing from a long tradition of iconography in which evil is depicted darker." Additionally, the student describes how the disciples "are gathered into groups of three, allowing for more personal interactions among them." While this second example is not needed to receive the point, it enhances the quality of the response.

Task 3: Accurately explains, by using visual evidence, one way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately explaining one way in which Leonardo placed an emphasis on Christ. The student states that "placing Christ alone serves to isolate him from his disciples, indicating that he is special."

Task 4: Accurately explains, by using visual evidence, another way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ. (1 point)

The response earned this point by providing another example of a way in which Leonardo created an emphasis on Christ. The student states that the "architecture overhead and the window behind him serve as a sort of halo, indicating his divinity and thus emphasizing him." Additionally, the student describes how the use of "linear perspective" and the "triangular form of his torso and arms" lead the "viewer's eye to his head, emphasizing him." While this second example is not needed to receive the point, it enhances the quality of the response.

Task 5: Explains how one visual characteristic in *Last Supper* is typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked. (1 point)

The response earned this point by explaining how visual characteristics in the painting are typical of the Renaissance because of how they connect with the era's interests in classical revival, humanism, and Neoplatonic thought. Linear perspective, classical modeling of forms, and individualized characteristics were "derived from empirical studies of classical art, architecture and literature from Ancient Greece and Rome."

Sample: 3B
Score: 3

Task 1: Accurately describes how Leonardo created a sense of depth. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing how Leonardo creates a sense of depth. The student states that depth was created "by picking a vanishing point," which allowed for "a string" (attached to the vanishing point) to help guide the "drawing lines from the vanishing point to the foreground" of *Last Supper*. In this way, both the sense of depth and the process of its creation are described. The response could include additional terms such as linear perspective, orthogonal, and horizon line. In addition, the task point could be earned by discussing modeling or how chiaroscuro creates three dimensional figures and spatial illusionism.

Task 2: Accurately describes how Leonardo represented the figures. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes no attempt to describe how Leonardo represented the figures in the painting.

Task 3: Accurately explains, by using visual evidence, one way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing how *Last Supper's* vanishing point is located "behind Christ's head," thereby placing an "emphasis on him." This identifies Christ as the physical center from which all forms in the painting emanate.

Task 4: Accurately explains, by using visual evidence, another way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing another example of how Christ is emphasized in *Last Supper*. The response states that Christ is emphasized by "the natural light" coming from "behind the back of his (Christ's) head," emanating "like a halo." Additionally, the student states that Christ's placement in "the center of the painting," places emphasis on him. However, no point was earned for this example, as the student had already completed Task 3 and 4.

Task 5: Explains how a visual characteristic in *Last Supper* is typical of the Renaissance era. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response attempts to achieve the task point by stating that "these techniques are typical" to the Renaissance era. The visual characteristics offered as evidence for this claim are "the subject, Christ, the realism, the triangular structure, the colors are saturated, and the emphasis on Christ." However, no explanation is provided to demonstrate or explain how these visual characteristics are typical of the Renaissance. The subject matter and Christ are typical for many eras of Christian art. Similarly, realism and triangular

structures occur in several other cultures, not just the Renaissance. This response needs an explanation rather than an inventory of visual characteristics. For example, the response could explain how these visual characteristics are connected to the revival of the classical past, the Renaissance interests in mathematics.

Sample: 3C
Score: 2

Task 1: Accurately describes how Leonardo created a sense of depth. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing how a sense of depth is created in *Last Supper*. Leonardo "shadows the background and centers the work around Jesus" by using light to create depth. A second description of depth is hinted at by forms and terms associated with linear perspective, with the idea that the tapestries (identified as door), diagonal lines, and roof (coffers lines) all lead to Jesus. A more substantial development of linear perspective would include terms such as the phrase "mathematical perspective" or the words "vanishing point," "horizon line," and "orthogonal."

Task 2: Accurately describes how Leonardo represented the figures. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately describing how Leonardo represented the figures in various states of emotion, from distraught to surprised. The response explains the reason for these feelings is that Jesus has told the group that "someone will betray him." Without naming any of the saints, the response notes that the apostles claim they will not be the ones "who will betray him."

Task 3: Accurately explains, by using visual evidence, one way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ. (0 points)

No point was earned. Although the response attempts to explain how Leonardo created an emphasis on Christ, since he "centers the work around Jesus," this statement is directly related to the description of depth, instead of explaining how Christ is physically positioned in the center of the table.

Task 4: Accurately explains, by using visual evidence, another way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes no attempt to explain another way in which Leonardo has created an emphasis on Christ.

Task 5: Explains how a visual characteristic in *Last Supper* is typical of the Renaissance, the era in which Leonardo worked. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not attempt to explain how a visual characteristic in *Last Supper* is typical of the Renaissance.