
AP[®] Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] ART HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

Correctly attribute the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.

Using specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing at least two relevant similarities between the work shown and other work by the same artist.

Using at least two examples of specific evidence, explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.

Scoring Criteria

Task	Points
1 Correctly attributes the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.	1 point
2 Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist.	1 point
3 Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ANOTHER relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist.	1 point
4 Accurately uses ONE example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.	1 point
5 Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.	1 point
Total Possible Score	5 points

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5 (continued)

Scoring Notes

1	<p>Correctly attributes the work shown to the artist who created it in the required course content. The work shown is by Jean-Michel Basquiat. The name Basquiat alone is acceptable.</p>
2	<p>Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. The work shown is <i>Hollywood Africans</i>. Students are <u>not required</u> to name the artwork in the course content, but it is most similar to <i>Horn Players</i>. The visual similarities are in the inclusion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwritten words that look like writing on a chalkboard, graffiti or tagging, crossed-out words. • Heads and features of the human body (footprints, hands, faces, etc.), simplified or abstract faces. • Expressive, rough, sketchy, or “unfinished” drawing style; thick or visible brushstrokes, paint drips • Thick or visible outlines; geometric shapes or ‘boxes’ that frame words. • Bright, vibrant colors; high value contrasting colors; relatively flat, color-block background. • Some unpainted areas, visible parts of the canvas. • Seemingly disorganized composition.
3	<p>Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ANOTHER relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. See above.</p>
4	<p>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basquiat included terms alluding to American pop culture, African American history, African American culture in the 1970s–1980s, and portrayals of African Americans without romance, stereotype, or irony in order to celebrate African American history and culture and to challenge pervasive discrimination and stereotypes of African-Americans, especially in arts and entertainment. • Basquiat used elements of his autobiography—places, dates, names, etc.—in order to create work based directly on his personal background, racial identity, and life experience, especially as a minority artist working inside and outside of the elite art scene. • Basquiat used techniques, materials, and visual elements drawn from or perceived in the art world as “low” or “outsider” (such as graffiti) in order to push boundaries, challenge what was considered art, and to question the distinction between “high” and “low” art. • Basquiat included recognizable figures, often portraits of popular artists, musicians, friends, etc., in order to confront changes in the art scene of the 1980s, which valued celebrity and commercialism. • Basquiat also used text in unconventional ways—using visual elements that call attention to specific words by eliminating, hiding, or obscuring them or employing verbal puns, jokes, or word play that challenge the meaning or use of specific words or images.
5	<p>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. See above.</p>

5. Correctly attribute the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.

- Using specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing at least two relevant similarities between the work shown and other work by the same artist. Basquiat HORN PLAYERS, African American
- Using at least two examples of specific evidence, explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. "Africans"

THIS WORK CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO JEAN-MICHAEL BASQUIAT.

COMPARING THIS TO "HORN PLAYERS" BY BASQUIAT, ONE CAN SEE THE SIMILARITIES VISUALLY BETWEEN THESE WORKS. FIRSTLY, WE SEE A COMBINATION OF WORDS AND SIMPLISTIC SKETCHES OF HUMAN FIGURES THAT CAN BE ACCREDITED TO BASQUIAT'S STYLE. FOR EXAMPLE, "HORN PLAYERS" IS AN ODE TO ^{African American} JAZZ ARTISTS, AND HAS WORDS AND ILLUSTRATIONS REFERRING TO CERTAIN SINGERS ~~SO~~ SUCH AS "THE BIRD" WHICH WAS A NICKNAME FOR A PROMINENT JAZZ ARTIST AT THE TIME. ~~THE~~ ADDITIONALLY, THE GRAFFITI-LIKE BACKGROUND AND CHAOTIC LAYOUT OF THE VARIOUS PHRASES, WORDS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS IMAGE IS ALSO TYPICAL OF BASQUIAT, WHO IS KNOWN TO ALMOST SPILL HIS THOUGHTS ON THE CANVAS, CREATING A SPONTANEOUS WORK. THIS, ALONG WITH THE LIMITED COLOR PALETTE OF PRIMARY COLORS AND BLACK AND WHITE IS SEEN IN BOTH HORN PLAYERS AS WELL AS THIS WORK, FURTHER CONNECTING THEM THROUGH ARTISTIC STYLE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS A COMMON CONTENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS. A COMMON THEME IN BASQUIAT'S WORK IS ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL JUSTICE, SPECIFICALLY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR, SINCE HE WAS BORN TO A

Puerto Rican and African American parents in a diverse community. This, as well as the visual evidence of the words "Africans" being repeated multiple times in this work provides enough context to understand that the artist was making commentary on the discrimination of African Americans, but specifically on the film industry, as seen by multiple references to movies, ~~television~~ Hollywood, and cinema. The specific evidence seen in this work is the usage of phrases such as "Hollywood Africans" crossed out, as well as "Gangsterism" comments on the stereotypes of African Americans from urban settings, much like himself.

~~In conclusion, the reasons~~

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5. Correctly attribute the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.

Using specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing at least two relevant similarities between the work shown and other work by the same artist.

Using at least two examples of specific evidence, explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.

Other work by this artist also has specific words in order to convey meaning. In another piece, they had song-lyrics from a bar because the piece was a dedication to jazz music. They also contain faces in a simple, almost childlike style. The faces are painted in a contrasting color to create emphasis on them. In this piece it is blue against yellow, in the other it is pale blue against black.

This piece is meant to be a commentary on the lack of diversity in Hollywood. And when there is diversity, actors of color are paid less than their fellow white actors. In this piece, the phrase "HOLLYWOOD AFRICANS" is crossed out but rewritten multiple times. This shows how there aren't many Africans in America's film industry. "TOBACCO" and "SUGAR CANE INC" are also phrases that are written, which are nods to slavery. "200 yen" is written multiple

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times in the piece. Yen is Japanese currency and has little strength to the dollar. In his case, 200 yen is useless once converted to the American dollar. This represents how Asians are paid little to nothing in Hollywood. At the time of the piece, and now still, representation doesn't occur in Hollywood. From when Hollywood first began in the 30's and 40's until now, actors of color have been hard to find. Harder still is finding actors of color in leading roles. This piece is meant to be a commentary on Hollywood's racism ever since the industry began.

5. ~~Correctly attribute the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.~~

Using specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing at least two relevant similarities between the work shown and other work by the same artist.

Using at least two examples of specific evidence, explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.

The work can be attributed to Jean-Michel Basquiat. This work was created by Basquiat because of the prominent usage of text that is repeated, circled, ~~3~~ crossed out ^{as well as using and by} ~~as well as~~ the stylized faces reminiscent of cubism ^{which are} ~~are~~ utilized in another Basquiat work, Hom Players. Basquiat ~~at~~ created a commentary on African-American representation, and how various African American people influenced him through his stylized depictions of prominent figures, ^{as well as} ~~and~~ the usage of text ~~at~~ illustrating the subject of ~~the~~ historical African Americans, which is repeated throughout the composition. Basquiat intended, through these techniques, to create emphasis on important African Americans who were influences to him.

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

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

Overview

This question asked students to attribute a presumably unknown painting (*Hollywood Africans*, 1983) to the artist who created it (Jean-Michel Basquiat) by comparing relevant visual similarities between the work shown and other work by the same artist. Students were then asked to give at least two examples of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. This is a work from Global Contemporary (1980 C.E. to Present). The intent of the question was to have students apply their knowledge of the form and context of a work that they had studied to a presumably unknown, but similar, work by the same artist.

Sample: 5A

Score: 5

Task 1: Correctly attributes the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it. (1 point)

The response earned this point by correctly attributing the work shown to Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Task 2: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. (1 point)

The response earned this point by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and *Horn Players*. The response states that “we see a combination of words and simplistic sketches of human figures that can be accredited to Basquiat’s style.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ANOTHER relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. (1 point)

The response earned this point by describing another relevant similarity between the work shown and *Horn Players*. The response states that “additionally, the graffiti-like background and chaotic layout of the various phrases, words, and illustrations in this image is also typical of Basquiat, who is known to almost spill his thoughts on the canvas, creating a spontaneous work.” While “graffiti-like background” was enough to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 4: Accurately uses ONE example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. (1 point)

The response earned this point by stating that “the words ‘Africans’ being repeated multiple times in this work provides enough context to understand that the artist was making commentary on the discrimination of African Americans, but specifically on the film industry, as seen by multiple references to the movies, Hollywood, and cinema.”

Task 5: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. (1 point)

The response earned this point by stating that “[t]he specific evidence seen in this work is the usage of phrases such as ‘Hollywood Africans’ crossed out, as well as ‘Gangsterism’ [which] comments on the stereotypes of African Americans from urban settings, much like himself.”

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Question 5 (continued)

Sample: 5B

Score: 4

Task 1: Correctly attributes the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not attempt to attribute the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.

Task 2: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. (1 point)

The response earned this point by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and *Horn Players*. The response states that “They also contain faces in a simple, almost childlike style.” The reference to simplified faces, in comparison with *Horn Players*, is sufficient.

Task 3: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ANOTHER relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. (1 point)

The response earned this point by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and *Horn Players*. The response states that “the faces are painted in a contrasting color to create emphasis on them. In this piece it is blue against yellow, in the other it is pale blue against black.”

Task 4: Accurately uses ONE example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. (1 point)

The response earned this point stating that “this piece is meant to be a commentary on the lack of diversity in Hollywood ... in this piece, the phrase ‘Hollywood Africans’ is crossed out but rewritten multiple times.” While acknowledging that Basquiat often crossed out words in his works was sufficient, the additional evidence regarding the repetitive nature of the words was not required to earn the point. The additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 5: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. (1 point)

The response earned this point by explaining that “‘Tobacco’ and ‘Sugar Cane Inc’ are also phrases that are written which are nods to slavery.” The response further states that “from when Hollywood first began in the 30’s and 40’s until now, actors of color have been hard to find. Harder still is finding actors of color in leading roles. This piece is meant to be a commentary on Hollywood’s racism ever since the industry began.” While not required to earn the point, the additional statements enhance the quality of the response.

Sample: 5C

Score: 3

Task 1: Correctly attributes the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it. (1 point)

The response earned this point by correctly attributing the work to Jean-Michel Basquiat.

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Question 5 (continued)

Task 2: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. (1 point)

The response earned the point by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and *Horn Players*. The response states that both works have “the prominent usage of text that is repeated, circled & crossed out.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ANOTHER relevant similarity between the work shown and other work by the same artist. (1 point)

The response earned this point by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and *Horn Players*. The response states that both works have “stylized faces reminiscent of cubism which are utilized in another Basquiat work, *Horn Players*.”

Task 4: Accurately uses ONE example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes an attempt by stating that “the usage of text illustrating the subject of historical African Americans, which is repeated throughout the composition. Basquiat intended, through these techniques, to create emphasis on important African Americans who were influences to him”; however, the response does not connect the statement to any specific evidence in the work they were shown. The issue of “influences” is a component of *Horn Players*, but not of *Hollywood Africans*, in which Basquiat portrays himself with his peers.

Task 5: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use another example of specific evidence to explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.