
AP[®] Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] ART HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

The work shown is the Great Mosque of Djenné, which was founded in Mali c. 1200 C.E. The structure demonstrates characteristics of mosque architecture specific to its location.

Describe at least two materials or techniques used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.

Using specific evidence, explain how the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.

Using specific evidence, explain both how and why the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.

Scoring Criteria

Task		Points
1	Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.	1 point
2	Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.	1 point
3	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.	1 point
4	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.	1 point
5	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain why ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.	1 point
Total Possible Score		5 points

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Question 6 (continued)

Scoring Notes

1	<p>Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The mosque is made from adobe (the Spanish term for mud brick), which is made from earth and other available organic matter such as mud, sand, straw, dung and/or rice husks, based on what is available, and water to form the mud bricks. <i>Note:</i> the use of “brick” alone is not sufficient to earn the task point.• Additional media: terracotta tiles/ceramic vessels/tubes and lids that cap openings in the roof, timber (palm) in the form of the projecting torons and the roof beams, and mud plaster coating the bricks.• Ostrich eggs are placed at the tops of mud-brick pillars on the exterior. <p>Techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The building is a post-and-lintel construction made of stacked mud bricks with projecting pilasters/buttresses on the exterior and 90 mud-brick pillars connected by arches on the interior that support a roof of mud and palm wood.• The exterior of the building is coated in plaster to protect the mud bricks from the effects of weather and must be periodically recoated (the specific name of the annual ceremony where this occurs is <i>Crepissage</i> or <i>Crepissage de la Grande Mosquée</i>).• The torons/timbers projecting from the exterior both reinforce the mud-brick walls and serve as scaffolding for the periodic replastering.
2	<p>Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.</p> <p>See above.</p>
3	<p>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Djenné mosque contains the typical functional and symbolic mosque components of a qibla wall oriented in the direction of Mecca, mihrab, a minbar, and minarets.• It also has the characteristic mosque spaces of a prayer hall and a courtyard.• Its soaring height in comparison to the surrounding buildings makes it the visual center of the community, a typical characteristic for a primary congregational mosque or Friday mosque.• Its monumental size is the norm for Friday mosques, which are supposed to be able to hold all Muslim males in the community.• It has spaces reserved for women (in this case its galleries) as is typical of mosques.

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Question 6 (continued)

4	<p>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain <u>how</u> ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Djenné mosque uses the materials and techniques characteristic of the region, in this case adobe/earthen construction, and thus it differs from mosques built in other regions of the world.• The interior and exterior are largely simple mud brick and mud plaster, rather than the colorful two- or three-dimensional decoration seen in other traditions, such as tile, mosaic, stone, or colored and decorated plaster.• The building's exterior projecting pilasters/buttresses and pointed crenellations mimic the town's domestic architecture and thus are local in derivation.• Ventilation is provided by openings in the roof capped with terracotta, and small niches in roof/towers.• The wood beams (torons) projecting from the exterior are a regionally specific architectural variation.• The pillars topped with ostrich eggs are also a regionally specific trait.• The Djenné mosque's flat roof differs from other traditions of mosque building (which can include a central dome flanked by squinches/semidomes; soaring iwans and rows of small domes; or rows of trussed timber roofs).• The Djenné is also constructed on a raised platform that elevates it 3 meters above its surroundings.
5	<p>Accurately explains <u>why</u> ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The use of thick adobe/mud brick walls is a response to local environmental conditions, insulating the interior from heat and maintaining a more constant temperature.• Ventilation systems are also a response to heat and a local architectural solution to this environment.• Replastering is an adaptation to the local rainy seasons and tied to local pre-Islamic beliefs that emphasize cyclical renewal.• Wooden beams (torons) reinforce the structure and are used for scaffolding in during periodic re-plastering.• Ostrich eggs incorporate references to local, pre-Islamic cultural concepts related to purity and fertility.• The monumental exterior, with its projecting elements (buttresses, crenellations, and towers), was likely inspired by surrounding buildings and the knowledge of trained masons who participated in building the mosque.• The appearance and construction continue the long tradition of mud masonry in Djenné while also visually and architecturally connecting the mosque to its community surroundings.• The elevated platform helps to protect the mosque from the annual flooding of the nearby Bani River.

6. The work shown is the Great Mosque of Djenné, which was founded in Mali c. 1200 C.E. The structure demonstrates characteristics of mosque architecture specific to its location.

Describe ^① ^② at least two materials or techniques used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.

Using specific evidence, explain how the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate continuity ^③ with global conventions of mosque architecture.

Using specific evidence, explain both how ^④ and why ^⑤ the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.

The Great Mosque of Djenné is made of adobe, a ~~building~~ mud-based building material. It is ~~is~~ said to be the largest standing mud structure in the world today. ~~Since~~ Since adobe is susceptible to weathering, the mosque is replastered annually ~~at~~ ^{during} the Crepissage, a time when Mali locals get together ~~and~~ and re-plaster the mosque. ~~The~~ The mosque also has wooden beams projecting from its facades. These wooden beams function ~~as~~ as scaffolding during the Crepissage, so that the walls could ~~be~~ ^{more safely be} replastered in their ~~entirety~~ entirety, from bottom to top.

Mosque architecture ^{almost always} follows global conventions, and this can be seen in the Great Mosque of Djenné with the ^{inclusion of} minarets and the qibla wall with the mihrab, ~~which~~ which functioned to call people for prayer and direct praying in the correct direction respectively. However, some architectural features

of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from these global ~~conventions~~ conventions, seen in the material itself. ~~Adobe~~ The adobe and wood are distinctly African features. ~~The unique Crepissage gathering~~ The unique Crepissage gathering is necessary to maintain the mud structure, since Mali is located in a region of ~~sub-Saharan~~ Africa between the jungle and the desert that leaves the mud highly vulnerable to weathering. As a result, the wooden beams are necessary to ensure that the mosque can be properly replastered.

Adobe

6. The work shown is the Great Mosque of Djenné, which was founded in Mali c. 1200 C.E. The structure demonstrates characteristics of mosque architecture specific to its location.

Describe at least two materials or techniques used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.

Using specific evidence, explain how the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.

Using specific evidence, explain both how and why the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.

The Great Mosque of Djenné is the largest standing adobe structure today. It is made of mud that has hardened similar to cement and uses large wooden poles for added support (very similar to concrete and rebar). The mosque itself has a large open area similar to other large mosques such as the mosque at Cordoba. This similarity shows its continuity with the rest of the world. The mosque itself somewhat strays away from conventions in the sense that the Mali people have influenced the characteristics of the building. In order to suit local needs the mosque was built with local materials with the local architectural style. This led to the ritual of crepissage.

6. The work shown is the Great Mosque of Djenné, which was founded in Mali c. 1200 C.E. The structure demonstrates characteristics of mosque architecture specific to its location.

Describe at least two materials or techniques used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.

Using specific evidence, explain how the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.

Using specific evidence, explain both how and why the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.

Two materials used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné were stone and clay.

The raised towers of the ~~mosque~~ Great Mosque of Djenné are also visible in other mosques and appear similar to the minarets that are characteristic of mosque architecture which provides evidence that the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.

The sheer size of the Great Mosque of Djenné indicates how ~~the~~ it demonstrates change from global conventions in mosque architecture, but also why it demonstrates change. The huge scale of the mosque shows that it was meant to express the power of Islam in that area, but other mosques throughout history have not used size to ~~indicate this~~ ~~emphasize~~ legitimize this power and authority.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

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

Overview

This question asked students to analyze the Great Mosque of Djenné by accurately describing two materials and/or techniques used in the construction of the mosque and then use specific evidence to explain how the mosque aligns with the global conventions of mosque architecture. Students were then asked to explain how and why the Great Mosque of Djenné deviates from those same global conventions. This is a work from Africa (1100-1980 C.E.). The intent of the question was to give students the opportunity to use visual and contextual analysis skills to explain how a work demonstrates both continuity and change within an artistic tradition.

Sample: 6A

Score: 5

Task 1: Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné. (1 point)

The response earned this point by noting that the mosque is “made of adobe, a mud-based building material.”

Task 2: Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné. (1 point)

The response earned this point stating that “the mosque is re-plastered annually during the Crepissage, a time when Mali locals get together and re-plaster the mosque.” Additionally, the response notes that the mosque has “wooden beams projecting from it’s facades,” which “function as scaffolding during the Crepissage.” While this second explanation is not needed to receive the point, it enhances the quality of the response.

Task 3: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture. (1 point)

The response earned this point by referencing the “inclusion of minarets and the qibla wall with the mihrab, which functioned to call people for prayer and direct praying in the correct direction respectively.”

Task 4: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture. (1 point)

The response earned the point by noting that Djenné departs from global conventions of mosque architecture as it was built using “adobe and wood,” which are “distinctly African features.”

Task 5: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain why ONE architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture. (1 point)

The response earned this point by using specific evidence to explain why the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates change from global conventions of mosque architecture. The response states that “the unique Crepissage gathering is necessary to maintain the mud structure, since Mali is located in a region of Africa between the jungle and the desert that leaves the mud highly vulnerable to weathering.” Although it is not required to earn the task point, the response additionally states that the “the wooden beams are necessary to ensure that the mosque can be properly replastered,” which enhances the quality of the overall essay.

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Question 6 (continued)

Sample: 6B

Score: 3

Task 1: Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné. (1 point)

The response earned this point by describing the mosque as an “adobe structure” that is “mad of mud that has been hardened.”

Task 2: Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné. (1 point)

The response earned this point when it notes the use of “large wooden poles for added support.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes an attempt to explain how one architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture by stating that the mosque “has a large open area similar to other mosques such as the mosque at Cordoba.” However, this explanation lacks specificity in referencing the architectural feature. To earn the point, the response should have referred to either the courtyard or prayer hall (hypostyle hall) often seen in global examples of mosques; alternatively, the response could have explained how a large, open space would have functioned within the context of an Islamic religious structure (i.e., to prayer toward Mecca, to pray five times a day, etc.).

Task 4: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture. (1 point)

The response earned this point by noting that “the Mali people have influenced the characteristics of the building.” Referring to the use of “adobe,” “wooden poles,” and “mud,” the response goes on to explain that “[i]n order to suit local needs the mosque was built with local materials with the local architectural style.”

Task 5: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain why ONE architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes an attempt to explain why one architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture by mentioning that the local needs and materials mentioned in Task four “led to the ritual of crepissage.” However, the response does not adequately explain this ritual and its role in distinguishing Djenné from common mosque conventions. In order to earn the task point, the response needed to elaborate on the fact that the materials and/or the environmental conditions require the annual replastering of the mosque that takes place during this communal ritual.

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Question 6 (continued)

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

Task 1: Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné. (1 point)

The response earned this point by accurately identifying one material used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné as “clay.”

Task 2: Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes an attempt to describe another material used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné by identifying “stone” as a material, but this is incorrect.

Task 3: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture. (1 point)

This response earned this point by stating that the mosque has “raised towers” that are “also visible in other mosques and appear similar to the minarets that are characteristic of mosque architecture.”

Task 4: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes an attempt to explain how an architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates change from global conventions of mosque architecture by noting the “sheer size” of the mosque, but this is incorrect.

Task 5: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain why ONE architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response makes an attempt to explain why an architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates change from global conventions of mosque architecture by stating that the “huge scale of the mosque shows that it was meant to express the power of Islam in that area, but other mosques throughout history have not used size to legitimize this power and authority,” but this is incorrect.