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AP[®]

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AP[®] Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 4: Contextual Analysis**5 points**

(A) Accurately describes the materials OR techniques used to create the *Bayeux Tapestry*. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- The *Bayeux Tapestry* is comprised of linen cloth and wool yarn.
- The cloth is embroidered or stitched with wool yarn dyed in eight different colors.
- The woven cloth is cut and sewn into a long, horizontal wall hanging.

(B) Accurately describes ONE historical event depicted in the *Bayeux Tapestry*. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- Harold of Wessex swears an oath to support William, Duke of Normandy (also known as William the Conqueror).
- Harold breaks the oath to William and has himself crowned as the king of England after the death of Edward the Confessor.
- Upon hearing of Harold's betrayal, William and his half-brother Bishop Odo make battle preparations to invade England.
- After arriving on the south coast of England, the Normans defeat the English in the Battle of Hastings of 1066; Harold is killed in the combat.
- William becomes King of England. (William's coronation may have been depicted in the missing last section of the embroidery.)

(C) Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ONE example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- The embroidery functions as a work of propaganda by presenting details of the Battle of Hastings from the perspective of the Norman victors.
 - The embroidery emphasizes William's leadership, ingenuity, and even generosity, through his strategic planning and extensive preparation for battle.
 - The embroidery favorably distinguishes the Normans from the English by highlighting how the Norman cavalry dominated the Anglo-Saxon foot soldiers.
 - The depiction of a star (thought by scholars to have been Halley's Comet) could be read as an omen or sign of divine disapproval of Harold's usurpation of the throne and the breaking of his oath.
 - In addition to identifying key figures who play a political role in the drama, the Latin text arguably provides a running narrative from the perspective of the victors.
 - Images in the margins on the top and bottom of the piece could be interpreted as having meaning that informs the main narrative in the center of the work or bolsters the victors' point of view.
 - The depiction of a banquet could be interpreted as conveying a political point of view in the context of preparing for battle or in depicting feudal hierarchies.
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- (D)** Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ANOTHER example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- One from list in C.

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- (E)** Accurately explains how the *Bayeux Tapestry* reflects the point of view of its patron. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- By depicting the narrative from a Norman point of view, the patron of the *Bayeux Tapestry* sought to validate William’s right to rule as king, by suggesting that he was divinely approved and thoroughly qualified to rule England.
- Most agree that the patron was William’s half-brother, Bishop Odo of Bayeux, and he was therefore motivated to win William’s favor by depicting the events from a perspective that represented the Norman conquest of England in a positive light.
- In the embroidery, Bishop Odo is identified multiple times by name and portrayed as a loyal participant in the Norman campaign, thereby highlighting his role in the events that led to William’s coronation as King of England.
- The long, portable embroidery was likely meant to be hung in a vast interior space, such as that of a cathedral or great hall, providing large audiences with an impressive and propagandistic visual narrative of the Norman victory.

Total for question 4 5 points

Q 1

Q 2

Q 3

Q 4

Q 5

Q 6

Sample 4A.1

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

The Bayeux Tapestry is made out of embroidery on linen.

The Bayeux Tapestry represents the Norman conquest of England under William I. William I, allied with Bishop Odo, his half-brother, successfully lead the Norman armies to a victory against the English. It leads to William I becoming the king of England.

The depiction of events conveys a political point of view. One way it does this is through the First Meal scene, where Normans sit around tables and feast. A Latin inscription informs the reader that Bishop Odo has blessed this meal. The Norman troops look satisfied as they feast. ~~Another point~~ This depicts the political view that God was on the side of the Normans in their conquest of England - since Odo represented God and the Church, and Odo blessed the meal, then God approves of the Normans. Another way that a political view is conveyed is through the Cavalry Attack scene. The Normans charge in on horseback. The English form a defensive ~~sq~~ shield-wall and wield double-bladed axes. The top and bottom registers depict dead soldiers. The political view conveyed here is that, though brutal fighting went on between the English and Normans, the Norman troops were superior and thus able to prevail.

The Bayeux Tapestry reflects the point of view of

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4



Q5



Q6

 Sample 4A.2

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

its patron. It's not known who the patron was (maybe Odo?) but it was likely a Norman who supported William I's conquest. This is evident through the portrayal of the Norman riding into battle valiantly on horseback. It's also clear through the overall glorification of William I, Odo, and the Normans and their fighting that is found throughout the work. Finally, it reflects the view of its patron by ~~showing~~ its Latin inscription, which narrates the illuminated manuscript and tells of the Norman's success.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

Sample 4B

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

The Bayeux Tapestry was created through the use of thread on cloth through the process of embroidery. The work was created after a conflict between ~~the~~ what is known today as Britain and France. The historical conflict was over land disputes, and William the Conqueror came out successful.

One way that a political point of view is shown through the depiction of events is by depicting the winners of the war as superior to the others. This is depicted in the battle scene where the victors demolish the others while they are on horses and their enemies are not. Another way that this is shown is through the narrative showing the victor's preparations and celebrations only. The only time that the conquered are shown are when they are being defeated.

The Bayeux Tapestry reflects the point of view of the patron by depicting the story of their victory. It glorifies the victors in the way that they wished to be glorified.

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4



Q5



Q6

Sample 4C

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

~~One~~ The Bayeux Tapestry was created by sewing or embroidering colored yarn into a piece of cloth or tapestry.

The historical event depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry is Battle of Hastings

Question 4

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

Overview

Responses were supposed to demonstrate primarily the art historical thinking skill of contextual analysis, applied to a work from the Course and Exam Description (CED). To be awarded all five score points, the response needed to successfully accomplish the following tasks:

- Describe the materials or techniques used to create the *Bayeux Tapestry*.
- Place the *Bayeux Tapestry* in its historical and political context by describing a historical event depicted in the work and explaining how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of historical events.
- Address the role of patronage in the *Bayeux Tapestry* by explaining how the patron’s point of view is reflected in the work.

Sample: 4A

Score: 5

Task A: Accurately describes the materials OR techniques used to create the *Bayeux Tapestry*. (1 point)

The response earned this point by stating that the tapestry is made out of “embroidery on linen.”

Task B: Accurately describes ONE historical event depicted in the *Bayeux Tapestry*. (1 point)

The response earned this point by identifying the historical event as the “Norman conquest of England under William I.”

Task C: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ONE example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. (1 point)

The response earned this point through the evidence that the work expresses a political point of view by suggesting that God is on the side of the Normans, evidenced by Bishop Odo blessing the meal.

Task D: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ANOTHER example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. (1 point)

The response earned this point through the evidence that the work also expresses a political point of view by fully describing how “the Norman troops were superior and thus able to prevail.”

Task E: Accurately explains how the *Bayeux Tapestry* reflects the point of view of its patron. (1 point)

The response earned this point by stating that the patron was likely a Norman who supported William’s conquest through “overall glorification.”

Question 4 (continued)

Sample: 4B

Score: 4

Task A: Accurately describes the materials OR techniques used to create the *Bayeux Tapestry*. (1 point)

The response earned this point by stating that the work was made with “thread on cloth through the process of embroidery.”

Task B: Accurately describes ONE historical event depicted in the *Bayeux Tapestry*. (1 point)

The response earned this point by identifying the historical event in which “William the Conqueror came out successful.” Although England at this time should not be referred to as Britain, the response gets around that by saying “what is known today as Britain,” and the mention of William does qualify the statement as a reference to an actual historical event.

Task C: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ONE example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. (1 point)

The response earned this point by distinguishing the two armies, describing one as “superior” because “they are on horses and their enemies are not.”

Task D: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ANOTHER example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. (1 point)

This point was earned for distinguishing the two armies by showing the “victor’s preparations and celebrations” and only showing those on the losing side “when they are being defeated.”

Task E: Accurately explains how the *Bayeux Tapestry* reflects the point of view of its patron. (0 points)

Although the response includes an attempt to address this task, it restates the glorification of the victors without clearly connecting it to the patron.

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

Task A: Accurately describes the materials OR techniques used to create the *Bayeux Tapestry*. (1 point)

The response earned this point by stating that the work was created by “embroidering colored yarn into a piece of cloth.”

Task B: Accurately describes ONE historical event depicted in the *Bayeux Tapestry*. (1 point)

The response earned this point by identifying the historical event as the Battle of Hastings.

Question 4 (continued)

Task C: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ONE example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. (0 points)

The response does not include an attempt to address this point.

Task D: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain ANOTHER example of how a political point of view is shown through the depiction of the events. (0 points)

The response does not include an attempt to address this point.

Task E: Accurately explains how the *Bayeux Tapestry* reflects the point of view of its patron. (0 points)

The response does not include an attempt to address this point.