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AP<sup>®</sup>

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# AP<sup>®</sup> Art History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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#### **Free-Response Question 5**

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**Question 5: Attribution****5 points**

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**(A)** Correctly attributes the work shown to the specific culture from the Indigenous Americas in which it was created. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses include the following:**

- The work was created by the Kwakwaka'wakw, Northwest coast of Canada.
- Also acceptable: the Kwakwaka'wakw culture.

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**(B)** Accurately uses specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity in FORM between the work shown and another work of the same type created by the same culture. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses include the following:**

- The work is carved of wood and manipulated with string.
- The object includes a stylized bird form on the outside and a human head appears on the inside.
- The work contains ovoid and other complex, abstract forms as part of the decorative patterning known as formline style.
- While some exposed wood is visible, surfaces are decorated with predominantly red, black, and green.
- The work contains undulating black lines that move from thick to thin and back again, giving a calligraphic feel to the design.
- The work is bilaterally symmetrical (e.g., bird face, human face, patterns).
- The work opens through a hinged split down the middle.

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**(C)** Accurately uses specific evidence to justify the attribution by describing ONE relevant similarity in CONTENT between the work shown and another work of the same type created by the same culture. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses include the following:**

- The outer animal form is connected to the mythology and cosmology of the Native people of the Pacific Northwest.
- The combination of human and animal forms is connected to family clans.
- The use of moving elements on the mask is meant to suggest transformation during a performance.
- The masks contain crest symbols that connect dancers to ancestral entities and supernatural forces.

**Scoring Note:** Response must link evidence to culture of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nations to earn this point.

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**(D)** Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain the function of this type of work. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses include the following:**

- The work functioned as a ceremonial mask that was worn on the head at specific winter ceremonies, such as the Potlach, which celebrated origin stories as well as the wealth and privilege of members of the community.
- The masks demonstrate social status because they could only be worn by individuals with rank and standing.
- Masks of this type relate to family genealogy and crest symbols.

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**(E)** Accurately uses specific visual or contextual evidence to explain how the function of this type of work shaped either their form **OR** their content. **1 point**

**Examples of acceptable responses include:**

- Masks are meant to open and close, thus the inclusion of string/pulley mechanism that the wearer can activate in performance.
- The masks are most often made from a specific type of wood, red cedar, often called the “life giver,” which is an important material for the people of the Pacific Northwest coast of Canada used for almost all aspects of life.
- Formline embodies the idea of paired opposites, positive and negative. This is also the case for the use of red and black within both designs.
- The masks were worn as part of ceremonial attire by a performer who danced at the public ceremony while opening and closing the mask to reveal the face of an ancestor inside.
- This is known as a transformation mask, as the wearer is literally transformed into the ancestral figure while performing.
- The masks are carved to resemble birds, as animals are believed to have great power, and likely reference mythic origin stories related to the different clans that created and owned them.

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**Total for question 5 5 points**

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4



Q5



Q6



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

The work can be attributed to the Indigenous American natives from northern ~~Canada~~ Canada - the K'wakwak'wakw people.

The work is similar to the same culture's Transformation mask ~~and~~ in several ways, which justifies this attribution. The form of both works includes ~~the same~~ a making / opening + closing mechanism, ~~the~~ and when closed the works show a zoomorphic, bird-like figure; when opened, <sup>both</sup> interiors reveal a human-like and anthropomorphic face. Additionally, both works show geometric and curved patterns/shapes which are rectangular and decorate the inner flaps of the ~~the~~ masks.

This work functions as a ritualistic mask calling upon and respecting ancestors and is used in performance. The ~~the~~ performer is considered worthy and of a high social class, and starts the performance with the mask closed. When opened, a human face is revealed to call upon spirits and ancestors ~~to~~ and worship them. The performer and audience utilize these anthropomorphic and zoomorphic appearances to use nature and spirituality in showing respect and reverence for important ~~the~~ deceased.

The function of the work in worshipping ancestors and spirits relates to the content / form in that, as a result, the performer can enter a spiritual / heavenly realm while performing the ritual.

This is because the sudden transformation ~~the~~ that comes from opening the interior of the mask allows the performer to be

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Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

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● Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

- Q 1
- Q 2
- Q 3
- Q 4
- Q 5
- Q 6

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

spiritually enlightened, in a way, ~~And enter a new realm to~~ <sup>And enter a new heavenly realm to</sup> access their ancestors and call for deceased/spiritual/shamanistic deities of figures.

Therefore, this function directly resulted in the form of the mask including a transformation and open-close mechanism as well as the incorporation of animals and humans in the content.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.



Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Q 1



Q 2



Q 3



~~Q 4~~



Q 5



Q 6



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

The artwork shown is the Transformation mask, which belongs to the Kawakawaka.

In both images something in the shape of a beak is shown on the mask. There are strings attached to this beak, and in between the two parts of the beak there is a face resembling of a human. This suggesting it could be used to resemble some sort of transformation.

The strings would draw the mask to open or close, this mask would be used in dance. The dancer would be illuminated by fire, opening and closing the mask to show the transformation from animal to human.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Q 1



Q 2



Q 3



Q 4



Q 5



Q 6



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

The transformation mask is from an Indigenous culture.

The mask was to be worn during religious ceremonies. It opened up with strings, ~~and~~

The transformation mask included a human face at the center, as well as an animalistic style face that split into halves. It has a similar ~~to~~ function and form to the Buk mask.

The function was to be worn in religious ceremonies by men to demonstrate their interconnectedness with spirits and the natural life. The masks were hidden until their time to be worn.

The function shaped the content by needing to depict a human face, as well as a bird-like face to show the relationship between the spirits and ancestors, and humans.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

## Question 5

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

### Overview

Responses needed to demonstrate key understanding of artistic traditions, cultural context, and the relationship between form, or content, and function. Moreover, responses were supposed to demonstrate primarily the art historical thinking skill of attribution of an unknown artwork, as well as argumentation, comparative analysis, and visual and contextual analysis. To be awarded all five score points, the response needed to successfully accomplish the following tasks:

- Attribute the figure to the specific Indigenous American culture that produced it.
- Provide one example of visual evidence that supports the attribution by identifying similar characteristics of form in other works of art from the appropriate cultural context.
- Provide one example of visual evidence that supports the attribution by identifying similar characteristics of content in other works of art from the appropriate cultural context.
- Use contextual evidence to explain the function of the work and how that function shaped either the form or the content of this type of work.

### Sample: 5A

**Score: 5**

#### **Task A: Correctly attributes the work shown to the specific Indigenous American culture in which it was created. (1 point)**

The response earned this point through the correct attribution of the work to “Northern Canada — the K’wakwak’wakw people.”

#### **Task B: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities in form between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same Indigenous American culture. (1 point)**

The response earned this point by identifying “a zoomorphic bird-like figure” and stating that “when opened, both interiors reveal a human-like and anthropomorphic face” as visual evidence to justify the attribution.

#### **Task C: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities in content between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same Indigenous American culture. (1 point)**

The response earned this point by stating, “When opened, a human face is revealed + call upon spirits and ancestors and worship them,” referencing the connection to family clans and animal mythology.

#### **Task D: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain the function of this type of work. (1 point)**

The response explained the function of the mask by referencing the status associated with the performance, stating, “The performer is considered wealthy and of a high social class.” This contextual evidence earns the point.



### Question 5 (continued)

**Task E: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how the function influenced either the form OR the content of this type of work. (1 point)**

The response earned the point by stating that in a “sudden transformation” the mask opens and closes, and “Therefore, this function directly resulted in the form of the mask including a transformation and open-close mechanism.” This explains how the form of the work was impacted by the function and context of the work.

**Sample: 5B**

**Score: 3**

**Task A: Correctly attributes the work shown to the specific Indigenous American culture in which it was created. (1 point)**

The response earned the point by correctly attributing the work “to the Kawakawa’wa.”

**Task B: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities in form between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same Indigenous American culture. (1 point)**

The response earned this point by stating that “the shape of a beak is shown on the mask. There are strings attached to this beak, and in between the two parts of the beak there is a face,” providing accurate visual evidence.

**Task C: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities in content between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same Indigenous American culture. (0 points)**

The response contains no correct visual evidence describing similarities in content between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same culture. Furthermore, the response does not link any evidence to the culture of the Kwakwaka’wakw Nations.

**Task D: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain the function of this type of work. (0 points)**

Although an attempt is made to address this point, the details are not sufficient. The response includes a very general assertion that the mask “would be used in dance” but did not address specifics of Kwakwaka’wakw cultural context or function.

**Task E: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how the function influenced either the form OR the content of this type of work. (1 point)**

The response earned this point by stating, “The dancer would be illuminated by fire, opening and closing the mask to show the transformation from animal to human,” which explains how the function of the mask shaped the context.

## Question 5 (continued)

**Sample: 5C**

**Score: 2**

**Task A: Correctly attributes the work shown to the specific Indigenous American culture in which it was created. (0 points)**

The response attributed the work to an “indigeonous culture,” which is insufficient. The response must identify a specific Indigenous American culture, that of Kwakwaka’wakw to earn the point.

**Task B: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities in form between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same Indigenous American culture. (1 point)**

The response earned the point by identifying “a human face, as well as a bird-like face” as visual evidence. Note that in the prior sentence, the response refers to masks in the plural, which implies the comparison needed for this point. Evidence for this task appears near the end of the response.

**Task C: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities in content between the work shown and other work of the same type created by the same Indigenous American culture. (0 points)**

The response makes no attempt to justify the attribution using another example of specific visual evidence to describe relevant similarities in content.

**Task D: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain the function of this type of work. (0 points)**

The response makes no attempt to use specific contextual evidence to explain the function of the work. It states that the mask “was to be worn in religious ceremonies,” but the response does not include information specific to Kwakwaka’wakw ceremonial practices.

**Task E: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how the function shaped either the form OR the content of this type of work. (1 point)**

The response earned the point by linking the function to the artistic choice to include a string mechanism by stating that the mask “opened up with strings” and that it “included a human face at the center, as well as an animalistic style face that split into halves.”