



AP[®] Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Free-Response Question 1

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Question 1: Long Essay Comparison**8 points****A. Select and completely identify another work of art that serves as a representation of a holy figure or deity from a different religion. 1 point****1 point**

One point for at least two accurate identifiers beyond the titles given in the question prompt.

Comparison object: Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja)**Examples of acceptable identifiers:**

- Date: 11th century CE, or +/- 100 years of creation
- Culture/Style: Hindu, Indian, Chola Dynasty
- Materials: cast bronze

Comparison object: The Coyolxauhqui Stone from the Templo Mayor**Examples of acceptable identifiers:**

- Date: 1357–1520 CE, or +/- 100 years of creation
- Culture/Style: Mexica or Aztec
- Materials: volcanic stone

B. Describe the subject matter of both the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and your selected work.**2 points****1 point**

Response accurately describes the subject matter of the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy.

1 point

Response accurately describes the subject matter of ONE comparison object.

**Object shown: Reliquary of Sainte-Foy****Examples of acceptable descriptions:**

- A sculpture in the round depicting a young girl.
- A female figure covered in gold leaf and jewels.
- The subject is a seated female figure shown in frontal orientation or pose.
- The sculpture depicts a portrait of a seated child martyr (Sainte-Foy).
- The figure shown wears a crown or head ornament indicating her holy or royal status.
- A reliquary or container holding relics in the shape of a young girl.
- Sainte-Foy was a child who died for her Christian faith during the Late Roman Empire.

Comparison object: Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja)**Examples of acceptable descriptions:**

- The sculpture depicts a figure surrounded by a circular ring and small abstracted forms.
- A figure in bronze representing a Hindu god.
- The sculpture depicts a figure of a god standing atop a small prone figure or dwarf.
- The sculpture shows Shiva dancing to indicate his form as Nataraja, or Lord of the Dance.
- The subject is a deity with four arms that extend outward to the sides and in front of him.
- The sculpture depicts a figure with hair that spreads like wings on either side of his head.
- The figure wears a crown and holds attributes associated with Hinduism/Shiva.
- The deity has a serene expression, and the body has graceful curving forms inside a halo of flames (*Prabha mandala*).

Comparison object: The Coyolxauhqui Stone from the Templo Mayor**Examples of acceptable descriptions:**

- The subject matter is a flattened and abstracted female figure.
- The low-relief sculpture depicts images of dismembered limbs and body parts of a female figure.
- The figure shown is a nude image of an Aztec (Mexico) goddess.
- The subject is a nude female figure adorned with bells, ear spools, and a feathered headdress.
- This is a stone carving depicting an Aztec (Mexico) goddess.

C. Using specific visual evidence from each work, explain at least two similarities and/or differences in how the representation of the holy figure or deity expresses the beliefs of each religion.

2 points

1 point

Response accurately uses visual evidence from the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy to explain ONE similarity OR difference in how the representation of the holy figure or deity expresses the beliefs of each religion.

1 point

Response accurately uses visual evidence from ONE comparison object to explain ANOTHER similarity OR difference in how the representation of the holy figure or deity expresses the beliefs of each religion.

Comparison object: Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja)

Examples of acceptable explanations:

Similarity

- Both works emphasize the divine or spiritual nature of the figure by diverging from anatomical naturalism.
 - Evidence might include examples such as: Sainte-Foy's abstracted bodily form; Sainte-Foy is covered in gold and gems; Shiva has four arms.
- Both are iconic representations of figures associated with narratives that communicate religious beliefs.
 - Evidence might include examples such as: Sainte-Foy is depicted as a child martyr on a throne; the lavish decoration indicates the child's elevation to a saint; the reliquary represents the figure of Sainte-Foy; Shiva is shown dancing the world into creation/destruction; Shiva's long hair and the surrounding flame of destruction (*agni*) reference the destruction narrative; the god's hand gestures (*mudra*) and attributes (drum and flame) reference Shiva's power.

Difference

- The Hindu understanding of Shiva's role as lord of the dance (creator and destroyer of the universe) is indicated by the figure's pose and iconography; whereas the power of Sainte-Foy is expressed through the valuable materials used in the reliquary. The idealized form of Shiva Nataraja demonstrates the Hindu belief that the deity inhabits the sculptural representation, whereas while the reliquary depicts the figure of Sainte-Foy, Christians believe its power comes from the sacred relics inside.
- The Hindu belief in reincarnation (*samsara*) is communicated through the circular halo of fire (the *Prabha mandala*) surrounding Shiva as he is shown in the dance; while the use of gold and gemstones reinforce the importance of the reliquary, the reliquary demonstrates that Christians believe in the spiritual power of the relics that it contains.

Comparison object: The Coyolxauhqui Stone from the Templo Mayor

Examples of acceptable explanations:

Similarity

- Both works emphasize the divine or spiritual nature of the figure by diverging from anatomical naturalism.
 - Evidence might include examples such as: Sainte-Foy's abstracted bodily form; Sainte-Foy is covered in gold and gems; Coyolxauhqui's body is flattened and broken with protruding bones and serrated edges to indicate dismemberment.
- Both works depict the subjects of religious narratives communicating the beliefs of each religious tradition.
 - Evidence might include examples such as: Sainte-Foy is depicted as a child martyr on a throne; the lavish decoration shows the child's elevation from martyr to saint; the reliquary represents the figure of Sainte-Foy; Coyolxauhqui is depicted as nude and dismembered on the ground as punishment for challenging the gods is deserved.

Difference

- Sainte-Foy is depicted as a celebrated martyr with gold and jewels, while Coyolxauhqui is depicted in stone indicating her fall to earth from the mountain home (Coatepec or Snake Mountain) of the gods.
- Sainte-Foy is depicted as victorious with a throne and crown demonstrating the Christian belief that saints receive the glory of God as a result of their martyrdom and sacrifice; Coyolxauhqui is depicted as broken and naked in her defeat demonstrating the Mexica (Aztec) understanding of the consequences for challenging or displeasing their gods.

D. Explain one similarity or difference in how both works of art are used in the practices of the religions with which they are associated. Use specific contextual evidence from both the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and your selected work in your explanation. **3 points**

1 point

Response articulates a claim about ONE similarity or difference in how the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and ONE comparison object are used in the practices of the religions with which they are associated.

Comparison object: Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja)**Examples of acceptable explanations:****Similarity**

- Both works were originally displayed in public spaces used for religious practice.
- Both works are considered embodiments of the figures represented for the practices of worship and prayer.
- Both works were used in ritual processions.
- Both works are considered personal, intimate, and indispensable for worshippers' spiritual transactions.

Difference

- Whereas pilgrims prayed to Sainte-Foy as an intermediary to God, Hindus worshipped Shiva directly through prayers and offerings to the statue.
- The iconography of each work is connected to their respective religious practices, with the statue of Sainte-Foy serving primarily as a focus for prayer and connection to God, while the statue of Shiva is considered the god himself in physical form.

Comparison object: The Coyolxauhqui Stone from the Templo Mayor**Examples of acceptable explanations:****Similarity**

- Both works are displayed in public settings used for religious/ritual practices.
- Both works are associated with ritual practices involving death and religious emphasis on sacrifice.

Difference

- Sainte-Foy is placed at a site for veneration by pilgrims, while Coyolxauhqui marks the site of human sacrifice.
- Sainte-Foy is a reliquary that holds the sacred remains of a Christian martyr; the Coyolxauhqui stone is a large-scale flat monolith symbolically serving as a historical marker.
- Whereas pilgrims prayed to Sainte-Foy as an intermediary to God, Mexica (Aztec) worshippers did not worship Coyolxauhqui, but her story served as a cautionary tale for keeping the gods happy, which informed their other religious practices.

(D continued)**1 point**

Response accurately uses specific contextual evidence from the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy in the explanation.

1 point

Response accurately uses specific contextual evidence from ONE comparison object in the explanation.

**Object shown: Reliquary of Sainte-Foy****Examples of acceptable descriptions:**

- Sainte-Foy was located in a chapel within a larger church setting, so visiting pilgrims could pray to the saint and provide gifts and offerings.
- The reliquary was created on a small scale, so it could be carried in a procession in which worshipers pray and express their devotion to Sainte-Foy.
- Sainte-Foy functions as a container for the sacred remains of a martyred Christian saint.
- Reliquaries are containers holding the sacred remains of a martyr and serve as a spiritual conduit between worshipers and the divine.
- Sainte-Foy receives gifts and offerings from pilgrims and worshipers.
- The statue of Sainte-Foy serves primarily as a focus for prayer and connection to God.
- Sainte-Foy was the patron saint of freed prisoners, so some pilgrims brought their shackles as offerings.

Comparison object: Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja)**Comparison object: The Coyolxauhqui Stone from the Templo Mayor****Examples of acceptable specific contextual evidence:**

- Shiva is believed to physically inhabit the sculpture.
- Hindu beliefs involving fire are referenced in the flaming halo surrounding Shiva Nataraja.
- Hindu practices involving dance and music are referenced in the pose of Shiva Nataraja.
- Hindu devotees carried these statues in processional parades.
- In ritual processions, priests followed chanting prayers and bestowing blessings on people gathered for this purpose.
- The moderate size and the holes in the circular base are evidence that the sculpture was intended to be moved/used in processions.
- The statues, especially during processions, would sometimes be decorated with adornments to denote the human form of a god (e.g., clothes, flowers, gold jewelry).

Examples of acceptable specific contextual evidence:

- The Coyolxauhqui stone is a large-scale stationary monolith located outside at the base of a sacred temple (Templo Mayor).
- The Coyolxauhqui stone functioned as a symbolic marker at the base of the steps of the Templo Mayor.
- The Coyolxauhqui stone was moved with each iteration of Templo Mayor, which demonstrates its importance to the Mexica (Aztec) people and the site where it was located.
- The Coyolxauhqui stone is observed by worshippers as a cautionary tale because the goddess was killed/sacrificed by her brother after attempting to overthrow their mother and usurp the religious hierarchy.
- The symbolism of Coyolxauhqui stone aided in the recreation of a mythological narrative associated with human sacrifice.
- People sacrificed in rituals associated with the Coyolxauhqui stone were often Mexica (Aztec) prisoners.

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.

Representation of a holy figure can be seen in Shiva as Lord of Dance as it is a key god in the Hindu religion in India. Shiva as Lord of Dance is a statue of Shiva surrounded by a circle of flames while he dances with hands in mudra shapes, an important god of destruction in Hinduism. Reliquary of Sainte-Foy is placed in ^{a pilgrimage} ~~a~~ church and holds the remains of a martyr of the church for her faith.

• They are similar in that both show the face of the individual. The Reliquary of Sainte-Foy has the girl's whole body shown sitting, and the Shiva as Lord of Dance sculpture has the god's whole body dancing. This is important as both religions do not use icons and only look at the whole individual as they truly are. They are different in the material seen on them as the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy has gold and precious gems while Shiva does not have any expensive or wealthy materials on the ~~statue~~ sculpture. In Christianity the amount of wealthy materials on an object give it more importance while in Hinduism, it is not important what materials the god is made out of but more what he is doing (destroying and making life) as seen by the circle of fire around him). • These works of art are different in their purpose for their religion. Reliquary of Sainte-Foy is used as a representation of true faith and devotion for those pilgrimaging to see the relic. The Shiva sculpture is worshipping the god and reminding the ^{viewer} ~~holder~~ of the sculpture that life will be destroyed and reborn again (and to not do anything wrong so as not to affect your place in society when you are reborn again). So, they are similar in that they are reminders to stay faithful but are different in that the person shown is either the god you worship or not.

Page 6

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

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

Another work that represents a deity from another religion is the Coyolxauhqui Stone. It is made of limestone from the Aztec peoples of Mexico. The Coyolxauhqui Stone depicts the Sun goddess who was murdered by her brother. The Reliquary of Saint Foye shows Saint Faith, a small girl who gave her life to Christianity dressed in jewelled clothing, wearing an elaborate headpiece or crown, seated. Both works express the beliefs of ~~the~~ each religion through the subject matter of deceased figures highly important to each culture. Both works can also be seen to remember the deity or the holy figure's story of their religion. A difference that the two pieces have in the practice of the peoples religion is that the Aztecs used the Coyolxauhqui Stone at the bottom of their temple, and replicated the death of the goddess Coyolxauhqui as a ritual sacrifice to their god. The reliquary figure of Saint Foye is used to hold the relics important to the people practicing Christianity. Followers could come to the church of Saint Foye to the the legendary relics.

Page 7

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

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Q 3

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

~~The~~ The Coyolxauhqui Stone, created in the 8th Century CE, from Mexico (Mayan) culture, made from ~~terracotta~~ ~~stone~~ terracotta and paint.

The Reliquary of Sainte-Foy features a man made of gold and bejeweled, set on a gold and ~~the~~ jewel covered throne. The Coyolxauhqui Stone depicts a dismembered woman, painted in bright colors on a circular ~~terracotta~~ slab.

Both representations of these holy figures are primarily frontal, the man from the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy's body and face are front facing, along with the crown on the throne, and his upheld hands. The woman from the Coyolxauhqui Stone is also facing front, her limbs and torso are dismembered in a way that they are front facing as well. The Reliquary of Sainte-Foy is a 3D work while the Coyolxauhqui Stone is a 2D work.

The Reliquary of Sainte-Foy is primarily meant to be revered, it depicts a saint which are high members in Christian authority, while the Coyolxauhqui Stone is more the opposite, depicting a woman being dismembered as a guide for blood letting sacrificial rituals.

Question 1

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

Overview

Responses were supposed to demonstrate a number of skills related to art historical thinking, including visual analysis, contextual analysis, comparative analysis, interpretation, and argumentation. To be awarded all eight score points, the response needed to successfully accomplish the following tasks:

- Select and identify another work of art that, like the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy, serves as a representation of a holy figure or deity from a different religion.
- Describe the subject matter of both works.
- Use specific visual evidence from each work to explain at least two similarities and/or differences in how the representation of the holy figure or deity expresses the beliefs of each religion.
- Make a claim regarding a similarity or difference in how the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the comparison object are used in the practices of the religions with which they are associated, and support that claim by using appropriate and specific contextual evidence.

Sample: 1A

Score: 6

Task A: The response accurately identifies another work of art that serves as a representation of a holy figure or deity from a different religion. (0 points)

Shiva as Lord of the Dance is accurately identified as of “Hindu religion,” but the response provides no additional identifiers. The response did not earn the task point because it only provides one identifier, and does not include date, or materials.

Task B: The response accurately describes the subject matter of BOTH the Reliquary at Sainte-Foy and the selected work. (2 points)

The response indicates the subject matter of the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy as “the girl’s whole body shown sitting.” Because the description observes the seated position and relates that Sainte-Foy is a female, it earned the first task point.

The response earned the second task point for accurately describing the subject matter of Shiva as Lord of the Dance as “a statue of Shiva surrounded by a circle of flames while he dances with hands in mudra shapes, an important god of destruction in Hinduism.” The response further indicates that the “gods whole body is dancing” which also could have earned the point.

Task C: The response accurately uses visual evidence from BOTH works to explain TWO similarities and/or differences between the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work in how the representation of the holy figure expresses the beliefs of each religion. (1 point)

The response describes a difference in the expression of religious beliefs by providing the visual evidence that the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy “has gold and precious gems,” and explaining that “wealthy materials on an object give it more importance.” The response includes that in contrast, in “Hinduism” “it is more important what he is doing (destroying and making life), as can be seen by

Question 1 (continued)

the circle of fire around him.” The explanation includes both a comparison and visual evidence and earned the first task point.

The response did not earn another task point because it makes no attempt to accurately use visual evidence to explain a second similarity or difference between the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and Shiva as Lord of the Dance or connect the representation of the holy figures to the expression of the beliefs of each religion, including visual evidence from the selected work.

Task D: The response articulates a claim about a similarity or difference in how the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work are used in the practices of the religions with which they are associated, and accurately provides specific contextual evidence from BOTH the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work in the explanation. (3 points)

The response earned the first point by articulating how the works are used differently, in that the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy is an object of devotion “for those pilgrimaging to see the relic,” while the Shiva as Lord of the Dance is “the god you worship.”

The response mentions pilgrimage by explaining that the reliquary is “placed in a pilgrimage church and holds the remains of a martyr of the church for her faith,” earning the second task point by using contextual information to explain the function of the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy.

By accurately using contextual information, the response earned the third point regarding the function, explaining that Shiva as Lord of the Dance is “reminding the viewer of the sculpture that life will be destroyed and reborn again.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 4

Task A: The response accurately identifies another work of art that serves as a representation of a holy figure or deity from a different religion. (0 points)

The response correctly identifies the culture of the Coyolxauhqui Stone as “the Aztec peoples of Mexico” but does not provide any other correct identifiers. The response incorrectly lists limestone as the material, but in order to earn the point the response would need to identify the material as volcanic stone.

Task B: The response accurately describes the subject matter of BOTH the Reliquary at Sainte-Foy and the selected work. (2 points)

The response earned the first task point because it describes the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy as portraying “a small girl who gave her life to Christianity,” and includes that she is “dressed in jeweled clothing” and “wearing an elaborate headpiece or crown.”

The response earned the second task point by describing that the Coyolxauhqui Stone “depicts the sun goddess who was murdered by her brother.” While Coyolxauhqui is the moon goddess, this error does not prevent the response from earning the task point.

Task C: The response accurately uses visual evidence from BOTH works to explain TWO similarities and/or differences between the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work in how the representation of the holy figure expresses the beliefs of each religion. (0 points)

Question 1 (continued)

The response attempts a comparison by stating that both works “remember the deity or the holy figure’s story of their religion.” However, the response did not earn the point because it does not use any visual evidence or explain the stories in any detail.

The response makes no attempt to earn the second task point.

Task D: The response articulates a claim about a similarity or difference in how the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work are used in the practices of the religions with which they are associated, and accurately provides specific contextual evidence from BOTH the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work in the explanation. (2 points)

The response makes no attempt to articulate a claim about a similarity or difference to earn the first task point.

The response earned the second task point by including contextual evidence explaining that the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy “is used to hold the relics” and that “Followers could come to the church of Saint Foye to the the legendary relics.”

The response earned the third task point by including the contextual evidence that “the Aztecs used the Coyolxauhqui stone at the bottom of their temple, and replicated the death of the goddess Coyolxauhqui as a ritual sacrifice to their god.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 2

Task A: The response accurately identifies another work of art that serves as a representation of a holy figure or deity from a different religion. (0 points)

The response provides incorrect identifiers for the Coyolxauhqui Stone for describing the medium as “terracotta and paint,” and dating the work to the “8th Century CE.” The response describes the work as belonging to the Mexica (Mayan) culture. The response correctly identifies the Mexica culture but does not provide the required second accurate identifier.

Task B: The response accurately describes the subject matter of BOTH the Reliquary at Sainte-Foy and the selected work. (1 point)

The response lists some visual descriptors for the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy, but it incorrectly describes the subject matter as “a man made of gold and bejeweled on a gold and jewel covered throne.”

The response provides some visual characteristics such as “gold,” “throne,” and “jeweled,” but incorrectly describes the figure as a man. The response also describes the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy as “depicting a saint,” but does not provide enough detail to earn the task point.

The response accurately describes the subject matter of the Coyolxauhqui Stone using the visual characteristic of “depicts a dismembered woman, painted bright colors on a circular slab.”

Task C: The response accurately uses visual evidence from BOTH works to explain TWO similarities and/or differences between the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work in how the representation of the holy figure expresses the beliefs of each religion. (0 points)

The response attempts to describe a similarity by stating that both representations “are primarily frontal.” It includes visual evidence for the Sainte-Foy work by describing that the “body and face

are frontal, along with the direction of the throne,” and that the Coyolxauhqui Stone is described as “also facing front.” The response did not earn the point because the descriptions of visual evidence do not address how the representation of the holy figures expresses the beliefs of each religion. The response makes no attempt to provide a second comparison.

Task D: The response articulates a claim about a similarity or difference in how the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work are used in the practices of the religions with which they are associated, and accurately provides specific contextual evidence from BOTH the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy and the selected work in the explanation. (1 point)

The response earned the point by claiming that the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy is “primarily meant to be revered,” while in contrast, “The Coyolxauhqui Stone is more the opposite, depicting a woman being dismembered as a guide for blood letting sacrificial rituals.”

The response makes no attempt to earn the second point by accurately providing contextual evidence for the Reliquary of Sainte-Foy.

The response makes no attempt to earn the third point by accurately providing contextual evidence for the Coyolxauhqui Stone.