

2023



AP[®] Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free-Response Question 4

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

Question 4: Contextual Analysis**5 points**

-
- (A)** Accurately describes ONE visual characteristic of the layout of the architectural complex shown. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- The Great Pyramids of Giza are located on the West bank of the Nile River.
- Three large pyramids stand on a plateau in diagonal alignment.
- Smaller structures used for funerary rituals surround each pyramid.
- Sides of pyramids are aligned to the cardinal directions.
- Multiple pyramids of different sizes comprise the site, including smaller stepped pyramids and mastaba tombs.
- A sphinx is located at the entrance to the causeway in front of the central pyramid, which belonged to Khafre.
- Walled causeways connect a valley temple to the pyramid complex for each king.
- Valley temples stand at the end of each causeway near the Nile River.
- The large stone pyramid structures at the site were created from large masonry blocks and were originally faced with limestone.

-
- (B)** Accurately describes the original function of the architectural complex shown. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- Egyptian rulers and the royal court were buried in the pyramids and surrounding tombs.
 - Funerary rituals and ceremonies were conducted at the temples.
 - The rulers' bodies were prepared for burial and funerary rites were performed in the valley temples. The complex provides a safe place for eternity and the afterlife by protecting the king's body.
 - The site includes mortuary temples and other areas for the mummification of the royal bodies.
 - The site and its monuments served the symbolic function of demonstrating the power and authority of the king.
 - Deceased pharaohs were worshipped in the temples and buried in the tombs.
 - Processional rituals and ceremonies connected to burial and worship of deceased pharaohs occurred throughout the complex.
 - The site is a necropolis ("city of the dead") where deceased leaders were buried and honored after death.
-

-
- (C)** Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain ONE way the religious practices of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the architectural complex and/or its monuments. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- The funerary complex was located on the west banks of the Nile where the sun set because of the sun's association with agricultural, earthly, and pharaonic life cycles.
- The funerary rituals took place at the valley temples located on the banks of the Nile River because it was believed to be a site of purification.
- Causeways were included at the site to accommodate the movement of the mummified remains from the valley temple to the tomb site, which was part of the religious ritual.
- Due to the Egyptian belief in an afterlife where the soul (*ka*) would continue to live, funerary art and architecture at the site were made from stone and designed to protect and care for the dead.
- Due to the Egyptian belief that the soul (*ka*) continued to live in the afterlife, pyramids were constructed with rooms to house material goods associated with the afterlife.
- To prevent grave robbers and intruders, tunnels and false doors were included in some of the tombs.
- A colossal statue of a sphinx functions as a guardian figure over the site.
- To symbolize the close association between the ruler and the sun god (Re or Ra), which was an important belief in the Old Kingdom, the tomb was built in a pyramidal shape of the tomb and faced with a reflective limestone facade.
- The upward-pointing shape of the pyramids was believed to facilitate the release of the soul or *ka*.
- The rays of the sun and the ascent of the pharaoh after his death were symbolized by the sloped sides created by the pyramids' shape.
- The pyramid resembles the sacred benben stone, a sacred symbol of the sun god.

-
- (D)** Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain ANOTHER way the religious practices of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the architectural complex and/or its monuments. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- One from list in C.
-

-
- (E)** Accurately uses specific visual or contextual evidence to explain why the Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza are understood as an expression of power and authority in Old Kingdom Egypt. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

Visual

- The monumental scale of the pyramids and their reflective white limestone surface have dominated the surrounding landscape for thousands of years and serve as a lasting demonstration of the power and authority of the pharaohs.
- The combination of a lion’s body with the head and attributes of the pharaoh Khafre in the Great Sphinx served as lasting reminders of the power of the Ancient Egyptian ruler Khafre by suggesting his physical strength and intelligence.
- The solar symbolism of the pyramids that is present in their shape and the layout of the complex connected the pharaohs with the sun god Re and proclaimed their divine status for several millennia.

Contextual

- The precision involved in the design and construction of the complex demonstrated the power of the pharaohs and the social order of the Old Kingdom.
- The Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza are an example of the accomplishments, influence, and longevity of Egyptian culture in the ancient world.
- The construction of large monuments made of polished solid stone blocks and ashlar masonry functioned as a testament to the kings’ power, wealth, and control of resources.
- The large pyramidal tombs and the luxury burial goods demonstrated the Egyptian belief that the pharaohs were considered gods on earth, which reinforced and maintained their power and authority in the afterlife and in historical records.

Total for question 4 5 points

● 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 complex consists of three larger pyramids that were faced with the four cardinal directions. The Sphinx was ~~space~~ placed on the ~~outside of the complex~~ (on the edge of the complex), ~~so that it could~~. The function of the complex was a burial site for pharaohs, their wives, and other important figures. The practices of the old kingdom made it so that rulers were buried with wealthy objects and were made to look impressive to not only show their power but to bring these items into the next life. Because of this practice, these pyramids were made to be large to demonstrate their power and wealth in the after life. To add, a major religious practice was worshipping the sun god, so they made the pyramids line up with the four cardinal directions, so that the sun would rise and fall while being lined up with the pyramids (west and east). The Great Sphinx shows power in this time because cats would kill mice which meant that they had the power to stop diseases and stop the crops from being ruined/eaten by the mice. In this, the sphinx/cat is symbolic of the power and protection that the kingdom had. The Pyramids were large and made out of heavy material, so they would need to take a long time to build and needed many people to build it. By being so large, the pyramids showed how much authority and power they held over their people. In both cases, these structures towering over the common man were intimidating and made it so that the rulers and guardians were looking down and had authority over the common man. With this, people understand the expression of power as the culture and religion of Egyptians believed that they take these wealths with them in the afterlife, so the physical power represents their authority overall.

Page 3

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

0012923



● **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~~ visual characteristics of the great pyramids are that they are set in a diagonal line from ^(left) smallest to ^(right) largest, and they are ~~geometr~~ geometric in shape with ~~straight~~ straight lines and lack curves. The function of the complex is a burial ground also known as a necropolis. Since they viewed their ~~the~~ Kings as gods they made the pyramids as big as they are with family ~~met~~ members of ~~the~~ the King/queen were buried near the pyramids in smaller tombs. they're ~~belife~~ belief of animals serving as protectors caused them to place a sphinx in front of the complex to protect the pyramids and those intombed. They pyramids are seen as power and Authority was because they were the biggest ~~things in the~~ ~~dos~~ man made ~~the~~ structures and it ~~showed~~ showed that the old Kingdom had the money and the means to build ~~far off the site~~ large structures of the Nile.

Page 5

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

0011336



● 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 great pyramids of Giza all rest in a short diagonal line, with Menkaura, the smallest one starting the line at the top left, with Khufu, the biggest, at the bottom right corner. The middle one, Khafre is in the middle, balancing the two out.

The pyramids all display the power of three different rulers, showing mostly wealth. The pyramids act as tombs, and the rulers are all buried with their prized possessions to have with them in the after-life.

The pyramids along with the Sphinx, who has a ruler's face carved into it, tell us the impact of the rulers and in a way their story. Clearly they still are very impactful since we remember them to this day.

Page 7

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

0038076



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 required course content. To be awarded all five score points, the response needed to successfully accomplish the following tasks:

- Describe a visual characteristic of the layout of the Great Pyramids (Menkaura, Kahfre, Khufu) and Great Sphinx of Giza, Egypt.
- Describe the original function of the architectural complex.
- Explain how the religious practices of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced elements of the design of the architectural complex and/or its monuments.
- Explain why the Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza are understood as an expression of power and authority in Old Kingdom Egypt.

Sample: 4A

Score: 5

Task A: The response accurately describes ONE visual characteristic of the layout of the architectural complex. (1 point)

The response addresses a visual characteristic with “three larger pyramids that were faced with the four cardinal directions.”

Task B: The response accurately describes ONE function of the architectural complex. (1 point)

The response accurately describes the function of the site as “a burial site for pharaohs, their wives, and other important figures.”

Task C: The response accurately explains ONE way the religious practice of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the complex or monuments. (1 point)

The response accurately describes the “rulers were buried with wealthy objects and were made to look impressive ... to bring these items into the next life.”

The response goes on to connect the scale of the pyramids to “demonstrate their power and wealth in the after life.”

Task D: The response accurately explains ANOTHER way the religious practices of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the complex or monuments. (1 point)

The response accurately addresses the religious practice of “worshipping the sun god” and connects the architectural design with that worship “so they made the pyramids line up with the four cardinal directions, so that the sun would rise and fall while being lined up with the pyramids.”

The response also states, “the Great Sphinx ... is symbolic of the power and protection that the kingdom had.”

Question 4 (continued)

Task E: The response accurately explains why the Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx are understood as expressions of power and authority in Old Kingdom Egypt using specific visual OR contextual evidence. (1 point)

The response accurately states “pyramids were large and made out of heavy material ... take a long time to build and needed many people to build it. By being so large, the pyramids showed how much authority and power they held over their people.”

The response could also have earned this point for “the culture and religion of Egyptians believed that they take these wealths with them ... so the physical power represents authority overall.”

Sample: 4B

Score: 4

Task A: The response accurately describes ONE visual characteristic of the layout of the architectural complex. (1 point)

The response accurately states that the pyramids “are set in a diagonal line.”

Task B: The response accurately describes ONE function of the architectural complex. (1 point)

The response accurately states that “function of the complex is as a burial ground also known as a necropolis.” The response could also have earned this point for stating that “family members of the king/queen were buried near the pyramids in smaller tombs.”

Task C: The response accurately explains ONE way the religious practice of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the complex or monuments. (1 point)

The response accurately describes the role of the “sphinx in front of the complex to protect the pyramids and those intombed.”

Task D: The response accurately explains ANOTHER way the religious practices of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the complex or monuments. (0 points)

The response attempts to link the size of the tomb to the kings being viewed “as gods” yet the response does not fully develop that idea enough to earn the task point.

Task E: The response accurately explains why the Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx are understood as expressions of power and authority in Old Kingdom Egypt using specific visual OR contextual evidence. (1 point)

The response earned the point through its discussion of the scale of the structures and “it showed that the Old Kingdom had the money and the means to build large structures of the Nile.”

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

Task A: The response accurately describes ONE visual characteristic of the layout of the architectural complex. (1 point)

The response earned the task point by stating, “The Great Pyramids of Giza all rest in a short diagonal line.”

Question 4 (continued)

Task B: The response accurately describes ONE function of the architectural complex. (1 point)

The response earned the point through the statement “the pyramids act as tombs.”

Task C: The response accurately explains ONE way the religious practice of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the complex or monuments. (0 points)

The response attempts to address the prompt with statements regarding the Egyptian belief in the afterlife and being “buried with their prized possessions” however it does not connect this to the design of the complex by explaining that such goods would be housed in a chamber or room.

Task D: The response accurately explains ANOTHER way the religious practices of Old Kingdom Egypt influenced the design of the complex or monuments. (0 points)

The response does not attempt this task point.

Task E: The response accurately explains why the Great Pyramids and Great Sphinx are understood as expressions of power and authority in Old Kingdom Egypt using specific visual OR contextual evidence. (0 points)

The response attempts to address the expression of power and authority by stating how “they still are very impactful since we remember them to this day”; however, there is no specific visual or contextual evidence to support this statement.