

2024



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# AP<sup>®</sup> Art History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 2**

- Scoring Guidelines**
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**Question 2: Long Essay: Visual/Contextual Analysis****6 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of the rubric is earned independently. For instance, a student could earn one or two points for evidence (Row C) or earn the point for analysis and reasoning (Row D) without earning a point for claim or thesis (Row B).
- **Accuracy:** The components of this rubric each require that students demonstrate art historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, a response may contain errors that do not detract from its overall quality, provided the art historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam essays should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of art historical content knowledge and skills described in the rubric.

Works of architecture built in Later Europe and the Americas often demonstrate a variety of architectural styles inspired by earlier time periods.

Select and completely identify one of the objects from the list below or any other relevant work of architecture from Later Europe and the Americas (1750 to 1980 CE) that demonstrates a revival of an earlier architectural style.

Explain why the architect adapted an earlier architectural style to design a building in the architect's own time

In your response, you should do the following:

- Provide two accurate identifiers for the work of art you have selected.
- Respond to the prompt with an art historically defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Support your claim with at least two examples of relevant visual and/or contextual evidence.
- Explain how the evidence supports the claim.
- Corroborate or qualify your claim by explaining relevant connections, providing nuance, or considering diverse views.

When identifying the work you select, you should try to include all of the following identifiers: title or designation, artist, culture of origin, date of creation, and materials. You will earn credit for the identification if you provide at least two accurate identifiers, but you will not be penalized if any additional identifiers you provide are inaccurate. If you select a work from the list below, you must include at least two accurate identifiers beyond those that are given.

**Object 1:** Monticello

**Object 2:** Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)

**Object 3:** House in New Castle County

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<b>A</b> <b>Identification</b> <b>(0-1 points)</b>	<b>0 points</b> Provides one or no accurate identifiers.	<b>1 point</b> Provides <u>two</u> accurate identifiers for selected work of art.	
	<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>		
	<b>Object 1</b> Monticello  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following (two required):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architect: Thomas Jefferson</li> <li>• Date of Creation: 1768–1809 C.E., or +/- 25 years of original creation</li> <li>• Materials: brick, glass, stone, and wood</li> <li>• Location: Virginia, USA</li> <li>• Style: Neoclassicism</li> </ul>	<b>Object 2</b> Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following (two required):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects: Charles Barry and Augustus W. N. Pugin</li> <li>• Date of Creation: 1840–1870 C.E., or +/- 25 years of original creation</li> <li>• Materials: limestone masonry and glass</li> <li>• Location: London, England (United Kingdom)</li> <li>• Style: (Neo)Gothic, Gothic Revival</li> </ul>	<b>Object 3</b> House in New Castle County  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following (two required):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects: Robert Venturi, John Rauch, and Denise Scott Brown</li> <li>• Date of Creation: 1978–1983 C.E., or +/- 10 years of original creation</li> <li>• Materials: wood frame and stucco</li> <li>• Location: Delaware, USA</li> <li>• Style: Postmodernism</li> </ul>

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<b>B</b> <b>Claim/Thesis</b> <b>(0-1 points)</b>	<b>0 points</b> Rephrases or restates the prompt. <b>OR</b> Makes a claim that is not defensible.		<b>1 point</b> Provides an art historically defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
	<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>		
	The response must make an art historically defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt rather than merely restating or rephrasing the prompt. A claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place that can be anywhere in the response. A claim or thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.		
<b>Object 1</b> Monticello  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jefferson’s choice of classical style for his home promoted political ideals rooted in ancient Greece and Rome.</li> <li>• Jefferson designed Monticello using the classical style to reinforce political connections with France.</li> <li>• Jefferson used the classical style because he was influenced by Renaissance architecture.</li> </ul>	<b>Object 2</b> Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barry and Pugin used the Gothic style for the Palace of Westminster to encourage a sense of patriotism in the British public.</li> <li>• Barry and Pugin designed the Houses of Parliament in the Gothic style as a reaction to the Industrial Revolution.</li> </ul>	<b>Object 3</b> House in New Castle County  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venturi et al. revived an earlier architectural style as a reaction to the streamlined/undecorated style of modernist buildings.</li> <li>• Venturi et al. revived earlier architectural styles because they believed architects should embrace traditional styles.</li> <li>• Venturi et al. revived earlier architectural styles because they believed architects should adapt these styles to their own times.</li> </ul>	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<b>C</b> <b>Evidence</b> <b>(0-2 points)</b>	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Provides <u>one</u> specific example of visual OR contextual evidence relevant to the selected work of art and the topic of the prompt	<b>2 points</b> Provides <u>two</u> specific examples of visual and/or contextual evidence relevant to the selected work of art and the topic of the prompt.
<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>			
The evidence provided must be accurate, relevant, and art historically defensible.			
<p><b>Object 1</b> Monticello</p> <p><b>Examples that earn a point include the following:</b></p> <p><b>VISUAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure has a symmetrical design.</li> <li>The building has columns.</li> <li>The building has a pediment.</li> <li>The structure has a central, octagonal dome.</li> <li>The structure has a continuous row of small columns that runs along the roofline.</li> <li>The structure has two porches (porticoes) that each have a single entranceway.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXTUAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jefferson was influenced by classically inspired buildings he saw in France (e.g., Hotel de Salm).</li> <li>Thomas Jefferson was a politician and statesman.</li> <li>Jefferson’s interest in architecture led him to advocate for the use of classicism in creating buildings for the new American society.</li> <li>Jefferson studied classical philosophy and humanism.</li> <li>Jefferson was influenced by Palladio’s Villa Rotunda.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Object 2</b> Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)</p> <p><b>Examples that earn a point include the following:</b></p> <p><b>VISUAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The building has pointed arches/angular architectural details.</li> <li>The structure has Gothic tracery.</li> <li>The structure uses Gothic perpendicular fan vaulting.</li> <li>There are Gothic-style pinnacles.</li> <li>Stained glass windows are present.</li> <li>There are three Gothic-style towers.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXTUAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The structure is located near other buildings in the Gothic style.</li> <li>Architectural plans for rebuilding the Houses of Parliament called for use of either a Gothic style or an Elizabethan style.</li> <li>A contest was held to determine who would be the architect of the Houses of Parliament.</li> <li>The contest’s style requirements were to ensure that the building would fit in with the earlier structures surrounding the site.</li> <li>The structure was located on the river Thames alongside industrial sites.</li> <li>The structure’s appearance on the river Thames visually contrasted with factories and barges that used the river.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Object 3</b> House in New Castle County</p> <p><b>Examples that earn a point include the following:</b></p> <p><b>VISUAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Architectural elements from different historical periods are combined in the structure.</li> <li>The vaulted interiors are reminiscent of Gothic and Neo-Gothic styles.</li> <li>The high ceilings are reminiscent of buildings built in the Gothic style.</li> <li>The interior is decorated with wooden arches.</li> <li>The interior arches are painted with 19th-century designs.</li> <li>The structure uses flattened classical architectural elements (e.g., columns).</li> <li>Architectural cutouts give the appearance of a classical porch (portico).</li> <li>The semi-circular window is reminiscent of Gothic-style windows (e.g., fan window, rose window).</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXTUAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Venturi et al. emphasized how buildings have traditionally used symbolic elements on their facades to convey meaning.</li> <li>The building is characteristic of late 20th century Postmodern architecture.</li> </ul>	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<b>D</b> <b>Analysis and Reasoning</b> <b>(0-1 points)</b>	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Explains how the visual and/or contextual evidence provided <u>supports the argument</u> .	
	<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>		
	The response must explain the relationship between the evidence provided and an argument about the prompt.		
<b>Object 1</b> Monticello  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jefferson and other founders believed that classical architecture symbolized the importance of civic duty and good citizenship.</li> <li>• Jefferson and other founders believed that ideals about equality and egalitarianism were embodied in classical architecture.</li> <li>• Jefferson believed that classically inspired architecture symbolized the intellectual principles underlying the creation of the United States.</li> <li>• Jefferson felt that classically inspired architecture supported the moral foundation of the new country.</li> <li>• Jefferson believed the neoclassical style expressed revolutionary concepts.</li> </ul>	<b>Object 2</b> Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pugin idealized the Middle Ages as a time defined by moral strength.</li> <li>• Pugin saw a connection between Gothic architecture and spiritual and religious ideas.</li> <li>• Pugin believed the Gothic style opposed the architectural styles of the industrialized 19<sup>th</sup> century.</li> <li>• Pugin believed using an older style of architecture would emphasize quality craftsmanship.</li> <li>• The monumentality of Gothic architecture (e.g., the soaring towers, the screen-like façade) suggests a sense of English strength.</li> </ul>	<b>Object 3</b> House in New Castle County  <b>Examples that earn this point include the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The architects felt that architectural design should not just replicate a historical style but rather absorb it in a playful way.</li> <li>• The use of different historical architectural styles opposed the uniformity typical of modernist architecture.</li> <li>• Venturi and Brown argued that incorporating historical architectural styles could once again reflect the unique character and energy of a specified time and place.</li> <li>• The architects combined historical styles/references to allow the home to assert its own character.</li> </ul>	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
E Complexity (0-1 points)	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Demonstrates a complex understanding of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify a claim that addresses the prompt.	
<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>			
<p>The response may demonstrate a complex understanding in a variety of ways, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining relevant and insightful connections between the evidence and the claim</li> <li>Confirming the validity of a claim by corroborating multiple perspectives</li> <li>Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables</li> <li>Qualifying or modifying a claim by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence</li> </ul> <p>This complex understanding must be developed in the response and consist of more than a phrase or reference.</p>			
<b>Object 1</b> Monticello  <b>Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jefferson was influenced by classical orders reflected in buildings from antiquity and Italian Renaissance structures like those designed by Andrea Palladio.</li> <li>Despite being designed to evoke the spirit of democracy or republicanism by referencing the classical style, Monticello still functioned as a plantation with an enslaved labor force.</li> <li>Jefferson was critical of the architecture that surrounded him in colonial Virginia (i.e., Williamsburg) where he felt the structures were too British.</li> <li>Jefferson wanted to distinguish his home from earlier architecture associated with British rule of the colonies.</li> </ul>	<b>Object 2</b> Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament)  <b>Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Houses of Parliament needed to be rebuilt after a fire burned the original structure (in 1834).</li> <li>The Gothic style was practiced throughout medieval Europe, and its revival referenced earlier British history.</li> <li>Even though the design could be understood as a critique of the Industrial Revolution, the builders still employed industrial techniques and materials (like concrete) to ensure strength and stability.</li> </ul>	<b>Object 3</b> House in New Castle County  <b>Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Venturi and Brown published an important book called <i>Learning from Las Vegas</i> that influenced the development of postmodern architecture.</li> <li>Venturi and Brown encourage a mixing of popular and traditional architectural forms of the past.</li> <li>In response to Mies van der Rohe’s belief that “less is more” in architecture, Robert Venturi is known for declaring “less is a bore.”</li> <li>Venturi is seen by some scholars as attempting to “rescue” classical architecture from its association with the Fascist dictators in the early 20th century.</li> </ul>	

● 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 work I have chosen is Monticello. It was designed by Thomas Jefferson in the United States in 1780 using Brick & marble.

The ~~selected~~ architect chose to utilize an ~~old~~ architectural style from an earlier time to reference personal ~~and~~ ideals and intellectual interests.

Jefferson's alignment with neoclassicism intellectually can be seen visually through Monticello's use of columns, domes, and ionic order. Neoclassicism was a movement to look back at Greco-Roman artistic styles and utilize them for inspiration. It was also part of an earlier Enlightenment movement that Jefferson was influenced by.

Jefferson's personal ideals of democracy heavily influenced Monticello. As the US secretary of state during the French Revolution (that he had a hand in) and being the third president of the US, Jefferson had a close relationship with democracy, and most of those ideals came from Greco-Roman democracy. His choice to reference that time also highlights his personal ideals.

This design & its democratic references could be ironic considering Jefferson was a slave-owner, considerably undemocratic and unequal compared to the ideals he supports

Page 3

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

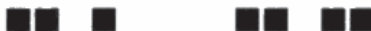
- Q1
- Q2
- Q3
- Q4
- Q5
- Q6

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

The House in New castle County from the 20<sup>th</sup> century made during the postmodern period is a piece of architecture that shows a revival from the classical period. We can see this revival on the facade of the building showcasing ~~the~~ cutout style columns and pediment. ~~There being a common convention from the classical period of ancient Greece & Roman periods~~ Columns and pediments being a common convention from the classical period of the ancient Greek & Roman peoples, we can see that the architect is trying to bring back this style. During the Postmodern period in architecture ~~the~~ architects wanted to ~~the~~ revive culture in buildings and bring back a sense of identity. The architect of The House in New castle county ~~started~~ ~~this fact~~ ~~by~~ enforced this fact by styling ~~this house classically~~ the exterior of this house in a classical fashion.

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.

Monticello is a ~~contemporary~~ architectural building that follows old architectural design such as having a dome and columns.

The architect adopted an ~~earlier~~ ~~architectural~~ architectural style to continue past building styles while still staying modern. While keeping the usage of columns holding a frieze while also having a dome, Monticello also uses more modern building materials such as brick.

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



## Question 2

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

### Overview

Responses were required to demonstrate a number of skills related to art historical thinking, including argumentation with a well-crafted thesis, visual and contextual analysis, and art historical interpretation. To be awarded all six score points, the response needed to successfully accomplish the following tasks:

- Select and identify an appropriate work from Later Europe and the Americas (1750 to 1980) that demonstrates a revival of an earlier architectural style.
- Establish an art historical claim explaining why the architect adapted an earlier architectural style to the building in the architect’s own time.
- Provide visual and/or contextual evidence to support that claim.
- Explain how the evidence supports the claim.
- Corroborate or qualify the claim with additional evidence or argumentation.

### Sample: 2A

**Identification Score: 1**

**Claim/Thesis Score: 1**

**Evidence Score: 2**

**Analysis and Reasoning Score: 1**

**Complexity Score: 1**

**Overall Score: 6**

### **Task A: Provides two accurate identifiers for the work of art selected. (1 point)**

The architect of Monticello is correctly identified as “Thomas Jefferson,” and the building is dated 1780, which is within the acceptable date range. Additionally, the response identifies “brick” as one of the building materials.

### **Task B: Responds to the prompt with an art historically defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning. (1 point)**

The response accurately claims that “The architect chose to utilize an architectural style from an earlier time to reference personal ideals and intellectual interests.” This provides an art historically defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning related to the prompt. The claim suggests that the earlier style was chosen to “reference the personal ideals and intellectual interests” of Jefferson (the architect), which establishes the line of reasoning.

### **Task C: Supports the claim with at least two examples of relevant visual and/or contextual evidence. (2 points)**

The response earned the first point for describing “columns, domes, and ionic order” as characteristics of Neoclassicism. This visual evidence is relevant to the topic of the prompt because these elements are present on Monticello and are characteristic of Neoclassical architecture.

**Question 2 (continued)**

The response earned the second point for its reference to the background of the architect, regarding his motives for choosing Neoclassicism. The response provides contextual evidence referencing Jefferson’s political role, noting that he served as the “US secretary of state....and being the third president of the US.” This is a second point of evidence, in this case contextual, that is relevant to the topic of the prompt.

**Task D: Explains how the evidence supports the claim. (1 point)**

The response earned this point by linking the art historical claim to both the visual and contextual evidence. In explaining the significance of the architectural elements, the response notes that “Neoclassicism was a movement to look back at Greco-Roman artistic styles and utilize them for inspiration,” which earned the task point. The response further explains that “It was also part of an earlier Enlightenment movement That Jefferson was influenced by.” The response also accurately claims that “Jefferson had a close relationship with democracy, and most of those ideals came from Greco-Roman democracy,” and notes that “His choice to reference that time also highlights his personal ideals.” The response earned the point for directly linking the art historical claim about the building’s style to Jefferson’s personal ideals and intellectual interests.

**Task E: Corroborates or qualifies the claim by explaining relevant connections, providing nuance, or considering diverse views. (1 point)**

The response earned this point by considering a diverse view contrary to Jefferson’s previously discussed personal ideals. The response recognizes the conflict between democratic ideals and historically contemporary practices, explaining that “democratic references could be ironic considering Jefferson was a slave-owner, considerably undemocratic and unequal compared to the ideals he supports.” This demonstrates a broader understanding of the historical context in which the work was made.

**Sample: 2B****Identification Score: 0****Claim/Thesis Score: 0****Evidence Score: 2****Analysis and Reasoning Score: 1****Complexity Score: 0****Overall Score: 3****Task A: Provides two accurate identifiers for the work of art selected. (0 points)**

The response correctly provides a style identifier for the House in Newcastle as Postmodern but dates the building to the 20th century which is too general to serve as the second accurate identifier. As the reference to the date is too broad and no additional identifiers are provided, the response did not earn this point.

## Question 2 (continued)

### **Task B: Responds to the prompt with an art historically defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning. (0 points)**

The response claims that “Columns and pediments being a common convention from the classical period of the ancient Greek and Roman peoples, we can see that the architect is trying to bring back this style.” While the response correctly associates columns and pediments with Greco-Roman architecture, it incorrectly states the architect’s intent to revive a single style, rather than the incorporation of multiple styles. The response did not earn this task point because it does not accurately provide an art historically defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning.

### **Task C: Supports the claim with at least two examples of relevant visual and/or contextual evidence. (2 points)**

The response earned the first point because it provides relevant visual evidence by noting “the cutout style columns.” This is a point of visual evidence that is relevant to the topic of the prompt. The response earned a second point by identifying “Columns and pediments” as “a common convention from the classical period of the ancient Greek and Roman peoples.” The House in Newcastle’s pediment does reflect the classical Greek portico form and so earned the second point for visual evidence that is relevant to the topic of the prompt.

### **Task D: Explains how the evidence supports the claim. (1 point)**

The response accurately links the visual evidence with the objectives of Postmodernism, explaining that “During the Postmodern period in architecture architects wanted to revive culture in buildings and bring back a sense of identity. The architect of the House in New Castle County enforced this fact by styling the exterior of this house in a classical fashion.” Taken together, these statements explain how the features of the building relate to the art historically defensible claim.

### **Task E: Corroborates or qualifies the claim by explaining relevant connections, providing nuance, or considering diverse views. (0 points)**

The response makes no attempt to provide nuance, culturally relevant connections, or consider diverse views. The response did not earn the point because it does not include a discussion that demonstrates a complex understanding of the prompt.

### **Sample: 2C**

**Identification Score: 0**

**Claim/Thesis Score: 0**

**Evidence Score: 2**

**Analysis and Reasoning Score: 0**

**Complexity Score: 0**

**Overall Score: 2**

### **Task A: Provides two accurate identifiers for the work of art selected. (0 points)**

The response did not earn this point, because it provides only one accurate identifier. The response provides the correct identification of “brick” as one of the materials used to construct Monticello, but the response makes no attempt to provide a second identifier beyond the title.

## Question 2 (continued)

### **Task B: Responds to the prompt with an art historically defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning. (0 points)**

The response makes the claim that “The architect adopted an earlier architectural style to continue past building styles while still staying modern.” The response did not earn the point because the claim does not specify the earlier architectural style. Additionally, the reasoning that the adoption of the style is to “stay modern” is too general to have earned the point.

### **Task C: Supports the claim with at least two examples of relevant visual and/or contextual evidence. (2 points)**

The response accurately provides one example of visual evidence noting “the usage of columns.” The response provides the second example of relevant visual evidence by stating that Monticello also has “a dome.”

### **Task D: Explains how the evidence supports the claim. (0 points)**

The response makes no attempt to link the visual evidence to an art historically defensible claim. As the response’s original claim is not adequately developed, the attempts to use evidence as support for the claim are insufficient to have earned the point.

### **Task E: Corroborates or qualifies the claim by explaining relevant connections, providing nuance, or considering diverse views. (0 points)**

The response makes no attempt to provide nuance, culturally relevant connections, or consider diverse views. The response did not earn the point because it does not include a discussion that demonstrates a complex understanding of the prompt.