

2026



AP[®] Art History

Free-Response Questions

**ART HISTORY
SECTION II
TIME – 2 HOURS**

Directions:

Section II has 6 free-response questions and lasts 2 hours.

This section of the exam requires answers in essay form. Use complete sentences. An outline or bulleted list is not acceptable.

Read the questions carefully. You can receive full credit only by directly answering all aspects of the question. For questions that require you to identify a work of art, you should try to include all of the following identifiers: title or designation, name of the artist and/or culture of origin, date of creation, and materials. You will earn credit for the identification if you provide at least 2 accurate identifiers beyond any included in the question, but you will not be penalized if additional identifiers you provide are inaccurate.

You may pace yourself as you answer the questions in this section, or you may use these optional timing recommendations:

Questions 1 and 2 are long essay questions, and it is suggested that you spend 1 hour to answer these 2 questions. Questions 3 through 6 are short essay questions, and it is suggested that you spend 15 minutes on each.

You may use scratch paper for notes and planning, but credit will only be given for responses entered in this application. Text you enter as an annotation will **not** be included as part of your answer. You can go back and forth between questions in this section until time expires. The clock will turn red when 5 minutes remain—**the proctor will not give you any time updates or warnings.**

Note: This exam was originally administered digitally. It is presented here in a format optimized for teacher and student use in the classroom.



Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY

1. The objects shown are the Statues of Votive Figures, from the Square Temple at Eshnunna (modern Tell Asmar, Iraq), made around 2700 BCE. These objects demonstrate how artists have modified or reshaped the human form in order to express cultural beliefs.

Select and completely identify another work of art in which the human form is modified or reshaped. You may select one of the works from the list below or any other relevant work.

Describe one visual characteristic of the Statues of Votive Figures and one visual characteristic of your selected work.

Using specific visual evidence from the Statues of Votive Figures and specific visual evidence from your selected work, explain one similarity or difference in how each artist has modified or reshaped the human form in their work.

Using specific visual evidence from the Statues of Votive Figures and specific visual evidence from your selected work, explain another similarity or difference in how each artist has modified or reshaped the human form in their work.

Make a claim that explains a similarity or difference in how the appearance of the human figure(s) in each work expresses the beliefs of the culture in which it was created. Use specific contextual evidence from the Statues of Votive Figures and your selected work to support your claim.

When identifying the work you select, you should try to include all of the following identifiers: title or designation, name of the artist and/or 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.

Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and three daughters

Fang *byeri*

Nio guardians at Todai-ji Temple

Note: There are no images provided for Question 2.

2. Works of art produced by Indigenous cultures in the Americas express cultural values by referencing the natural world.

Select and completely identify a work of art from the Indigenous Americas (1000 BCE to 1980 CE) that expresses cultural values by referencing the natural world in its imagery or materials. You may select a work from the list below or any other relevant work from the same geographic area and time period.

Explain how the selected work expresses cultural values through its references to the natural world.

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.

Ruler's feather headdress (probably of Motecuhzoma II)

Intihuatana Stone from Machu Picchu

Maize cobs



Louvre, Paris, France/Bridgeman Images

The work shown is *The Coronation of Marie de' Medici at Saint Denis*, painted by Peter Paul Rubens around 1622 to 1625 CE.

The work shown is not from the required image set.

Coronation: crowning

3. In your response you should do the following:

Describe two visual characteristics of the work shown.

Using specific visual evidence, explain how the artist emphasizes the main subject, Marie de' Medici, in the work shown.

Using specific visual evidence, explain how the artist creates a sense of drama or theatricality in the work shown.

Using specific visual or contextual evidence, explain how the work demonstrates continuity with other depictions of rulers.

Source 1



Art Resource, NY © 2022 Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. All Rights Reserved. Licensed by Artists Rights Society.

Source 2



“Robert P. Ruschak, courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.” / Art Resource, NY

The images shown depict exterior and interior views of Fallingwater, a building created by architect Frank Lloyd Wright between 1936 and 1939 CE.

4. In your response you should do the following:

Describe one visual characteristic of the building shown.

Describe the location of the building shown.

Using two examples of specific visual and/or contextual evidence, explain how the setting of Fallingwater influenced the architect’s decisions when designing the building.

Using specific visual or contextual evidence, explain how Fallingwater demonstrates changes in architectural design in the early twentieth century.



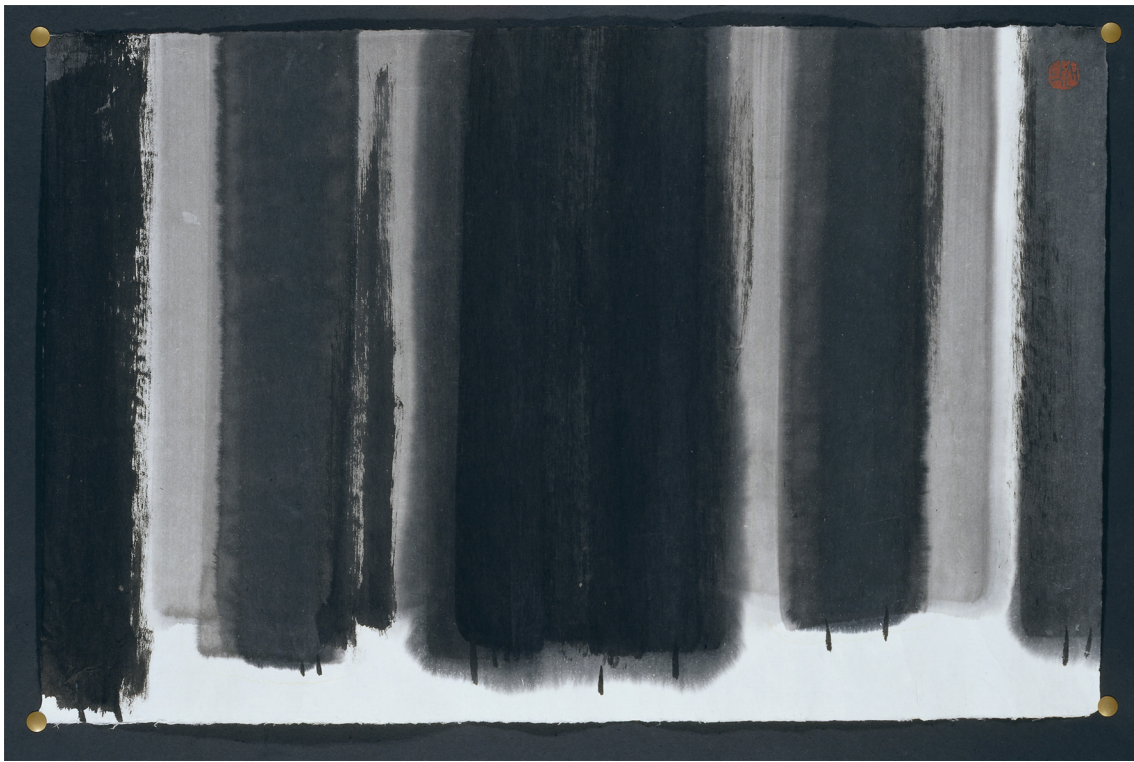
Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund 1930.331. Cleveland Museum of Art
This work is not part of the required image set.

5. In your response you should do the following:

Correctly attribute the work shown to the specific culture from South, East, or Southeast Asia in which it was created.

Using two examples of specific visual evidence, justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and other works created by the same culture.

Using two examples of specific contextual evidence, explain how the work demonstrates the religious beliefs or practices of the culture in which it was created.



Used with permission

The work shown was created by Song Su-nam in the late 20th century CE.

6. In your response you should do the following:

Describe the subject matter of the work shown.

Describe one material or technique used to create the work shown.

Using specific visual or contextual evidence, explain how the work demonstrates continuity with earlier artistic traditions in East Asia.

Using specific visual or contextual evidence, explain how the work demonstrates change from earlier artistic traditions in East Asia.

Using specific visual or contextual evidence, explain how the work might be interpreted as consistent with other examples of Global Contemporary art.

STOP
END OF EXAM