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AP[®]

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AP[®] Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 6: Continuity and Change**5 points**

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- (A)** Accurately describes ONE material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

Materials

- Use of glass in windows and skylights
- Use of steel for external columns, stairs, etc./use of steel beams for structural support
- Ribs made of reinforced concrete below ceilings
- Exterior and interior wall surfaces made of visible cement/concrete

Architectural elements

- Simplified/stylized/vertical and slanted columns in façade entrance area
- Curved, smooth walls
- Cantilevered or “shifted” sections
- Open ceiling allowing for flooding natural light
- Suspended, temporary walls for display of artwork
- Suspended black staircases
- Thin, blade-like beams
- Large windows
- Linear lighting systems
- Exterior pedestrian walkway

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- (B)** Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- One from list in A.

- (C)** Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

References to earlier traditions

- Concrete was a central building material in Rome, for example in the Pantheon and Colosseum.
- Columns are a primary structural element, similar to many architectural traditions. Particularly relevant references include colonnades such as the Piazza of St. Peter’s by Bernini or columns used by Le Corbusier in modernist structures like Villa Savoye. Other examples include Greek temples like the Parthenon, Egyptian structures such as the Hypostyle Hall in Karnak, or Persian structures such as the Audience Hall (apadana) of Darius and Xerxes.
- Ribbon windows stretch across the façade, similar to those used in Villa Savoye.
- The building’s minimalist, unornamented façade recalls modernist works such as Villa Savoye and the Seagram Building.
- Cantilevered structures blur the boundaries between interior and exterior space, similar to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Falling Water.
- According to Hadid, the winding pathways that are used throughout were inspired by Islamic architecture such as the minaret of the Great Mosque at Samarra.
- Deep shadows are used either for dramatic effect as in Baroque buildings like the Cornaro Chapel, or to produce a sense of weightlessness, as in modernist works such as Villa Savoye or the Seagram Building.
- Overlapping pathways and curvilinear forms provide a sense of movement and reflect the fluid and dynamic elements found in Baroque architecture such as San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane.
- Hadid’s use of dynamic and irregular geometric forms recalls the work of the Russian Avant-garde in the 1920s and 1930s (Constructivism and Suprematism).
- The unornamented façade, the use of concrete, and the blockish form of the squared corner and cantilevered observation deck are reminiscent of Brutalism.
- The use of asymmetry, curving walls, and organic forms found in the MAXXI reflect elements of earlier Deconstructivist architecture such as Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim in Bilbao.

Departure from earlier traditions

Various features of the building’s plan and design depart from more traditional museum architecture:

- The museum’s overall plan is not symmetrical and instead has a curving L-shaped layout, whereas the plans of most traditional museum spaces are generally rectilinear and symmetrical.
- The interior walls and exterior façade of the MAXXI are made of unornamented exposed concrete, while older museums generally had an ornamented exterior and would be made of a more traditional material, such as stone or brick.

- The MAXXI contains a network of intertwining corridors and stairs which pass through the central space of the museum, in contrast to more traditional museum buildings, where such features are generally placed in corners or along the edges of the space, defining a prescribed path for visitors.
- Instead of having permanent rooms like more traditional museum buildings, the galleries of the MAXXI contain temporary, movable walls.
- While more traditional museum buildings are marked by a series of separate and distinct individual rooms, the floor plan of the MAXXI is free flowing and incorporates long, winding hallways that are used to exhibit art.

Hadid does not directly replicate traditional architectural forms in her building. Instead, they are referenced in an abstracted manner:

- Unlike the large marble or stone columns used elsewhere in Rome, the MAXXI’s columns are thin, metal, and unornamented.
- Columns on the MAXXI also often appear on a slant, unlike traditional columns.
- The façade does not contain actual arches, but the U-shaped bends in the building’s façade recall the shape of an arch.

(D) Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to explain how the structure references OR departs from earlier architectural traditions. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include the following:

- One from list in C.

(E) Using specific contextual evidence, explain an effect Hadid intended to achieve through her choice to either reference or depart from a related, earlier architectural tradition. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses include:

As the first national museum of contemporary art in Italy, the MAXXI reflects life in contemporary Rome as well as its history. While the building is notably modern, considering its materials, techniques, and overall style, it also makes references to Rome’s architectural history. In doing so the MAXXI museum remains in dialogue with the city’s architectural past and present. As part of this point students could discuss:

- Architectural styles that are referenced in the museum’s design reflect the style of older buildings within the city of Rome/in the area directly surrounding the museum (such as ancient Roman, Baroque, Modernist).
 - The ribbon windows provide visitors with views over Rome and provide a connection to the surrounding urban environment.
 - The use of cantilevering, as well as the museum’s sprawling and irregular plan, allowed sections of the MAXXI to incorporate preexisting structures from the military barracks on the site of the museum.
 - The layers of references to different architectural materials and styles present in the building correspond with its function as a space to display contemporary art, which often includes complex historical references and layers of meaning.
 - The construction of the MAXXI was intended to revitalize the particular urban neighborhood where it is located. Building on the site of an old military barracks,
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Hadid wanted her project to bring new energy, positive attention, and economic impact to this area of the city.

- Hadid intended the MAXXI to be a “campus for art” in which visitors are able to move freely among flowing interior and exterior spaces, experiencing the museum and its contents from multiple vantage points.
- Hadid created the MAXXI’s emphatically unregimented, free-form design as an appropriate companion to the museum’s contemporary art collection, reflecting and encouraging the experimentation, creativity, and individualism of the artists represented.
- Hadid believed that the MAXXI’s series of continuous spaces would challenge curators to develop new ways of organizing art. The movable walls and open spaces allow for complete flexibility and for ongoing experimentation with installations, performances, or other types of projects.

Total for question 6 5 points

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4



Q5



Q6



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

The MAXXI National Museum of XXI Century Arts is a ~~large~~ large, multistory building constructed out of cement. Its many stories look like separate blocks stacked crookedly atop one another. The interior and exterior of the building have curved walls.

The MAXXI Museum references Roman architectural tradition through its use of cement. Roman structures like the Pantheon and the Colosseum use concrete as a means of creating large structures capable of withstanding the weight of heavy objects and crowds. Similarly, Hadid uses cement to create a large museum that can bear the weight of museum visitors and artwork.

Additionally, the MAXXI Museum incorporates ~~columns~~ columns as structural supports, holding up the second story where it juts out, ~~past the first floor~~ past the first floor. This references Greco-Roman tradition of using beams as architectural supports, which can be seen in the Parthenon in Athens and as engaged columns on the Colosseum in Rome.

By referencing Roman architectural tradition, Hadid effectively proves the MAXXI Museum to both be contemporary, as is the art exhibited inside, and be fitting with the setting of Rome,

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4



Q5



Q6



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

which is home to so many Classical and Renaissance buildings utilizing similar architectural structures. Hadid relates the museum to nearby structures like the Colosseum, but her unique interpretation of columns and the shaping of cement allows this structure to maintain a contemporary twist.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

 Sample 6B

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

The MAXXI National Museum of XXI Century arts, used floating / elevated walkways and steps as a means to fill the high rooms. LED lights were placed underneath these areas to compensate for the lack of many windows. This monochromatic museum seems to consist of marble. The exterior of this building has silver simplistic columns exposed, that are used as support columns for the hovering building's structure. Zaha Hadid used very modern, simplistic architecture and design elements to put an emphasis on the art within the building. This is vastly different from older more traditional ~~architecture~~ ~~seen~~ architecture seen in Rome known for its intricacy and complexity. This ~~modern~~ museum pushes the boundaries of art.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

 Sample 6C

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

Two architectural elements used are ↓, use of industrial like metal plating on the walls to create a sense of modernity, and lack of geometrical shapes that have been classically used by architects. The stairs and walls lack traditionally straight geometric lines and curves that stay at the same ratio with the walls and stairs seeming to curve with lack of pattern. Hadid intended departing from earlier tradition by not decorating functionally based stairs, walls ect, but instead changing the functionality of his structures to be a stimulation of the brain, entertaining rather than ~~practical~~ practical.

Question 6

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 identifying and analyzing artistic traditions, as well as visual and contextual analysis. To be awarded all five score points, the response needed to successfully accomplish the following tasks:

- Identify two materials or architectural elements of the MAXXI Museum.
- Explain how these elements or materials depart from or reference earlier architectural traditions.
- Explain the architect’s intentions behind those decisions, using contextual evidence.

Sample: 6A

Score: 5

Task A: Accurately describes ONE material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. (1 point)

The response earned this point by citing cement as a material used in the construction of MAXXII.

Task B: Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. (1 point)

The response earned this point by noting that architectural elements include curving walls and “many stories ... stacked crookedly atop one another.”

Task C: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. (1 point)

The response earned this point by noting that the MAXXI “references Roman architectural tradition through its use of cement.” It then goes on to explain why concrete was chosen and to what effect for both the Roman structures and MAXXII.

Task D: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. (1 point)

The response earned this point for stating that the “columns as structural supports” reference “Greco-Roman tradition ... seen in the Parthenon in Athens and as engaged columns on the Colosseum in Rome.”

Task E: Using specific contextual evidence, explain an effect Hadid intended to achieve through her choice to either reference or depart from a related, earlier architectural tradition. (1 point)

The point was earned for the observation that by “referencing Roman architectural tradition, Hadid effectively proves the MAXXI Museum to both be contemporary, as is the art exhibited inside, and be fitting with the setting of Rome, which is home to so many Classical and Renaissance buildings.”

Question 6 (continued)

Sample: 6B

Score: 3

Task A: Accurately describes ONE material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. (1 point)

The response earned this point for noting the “floating/elevated walkways and steps” as an architectural element.

Task B: Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. (1 point)

The response earned this point for citing the “silver simplistic columns exposed, that are used as support columns for the hovering buildings structure.”

Task C: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. (1 point)

The response earned this point for the contrast of the “very modern, simplistic architecture and design elements” of the MAXXI with the “older more traditional architecture seen in Rome known for its intricacy and complexity.”

Task D: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. (0 points)

The response does not include an attempt to address this task and therefore did not earn the point.

Task E: Using specific contextual evidence, explain an effect Hadid intended to achieve through her choice to either reference or depart from a related, earlier architectural tradition. (0 points)

The response does not include an attempt to address this task and therefore did not earn the point.

Sample: 6C

Score: 1

Task A: Accurately describes ONE material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. (1 point)

The response earned this point for noting, “The stairs and walls lack traditionally straight geometric lines and curves that stay at the same ratio with the walls and stairs seeming to curve with lack of pattern.”

Task B: Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR architectural element used in the construction of the structure. (0 points)

The response attempts to address this task by providing an additional architectural element with “use of industrial like metal plating on the walls.” This is inaccurate and did not earn the point.

Question 6 (continued)

Task C: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. (0 points)

The response attempts to address this task by stating that “Hadid intended departing from earlier tradition by not decorating functionally based stairs, wall, ect,” but this does not constitute specific evidence, and the point was not earned.

Task D: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to explain how the design of the structure or the organization of the interior space references OR departs from a related earlier architectural tradition. (0 points)

The response does not include an attempt to address this task and therefore did not earn the point.

Task E: Using specific contextual evidence, explain an effect Hadid intended to achieve through her choice to either reference or depart from a related, earlier architectural tradition. (0 points)

The response attempts to address this task, suggesting that “by not decorating functionally based stairs, walls, ect,” Hadid was “instead changing the functionality of his structures to be a stimulation of the brain, entertaining rather than practical.” This statement is inaccurate and did not earn the point.