

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE History of Art

(Art of the Western World)

Sample Questions



Unit 1 Visual Analysis and Interpretation

Painting

Henri Matisse The Joy of Life 1906 (Oil on canvas) (1.75 cm x 2.39 cm) (Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania) (19.3)

Describe the composition **and** use of colour in this painting, **and** comment on how each contributes to an interpretation of the subject matter.

Jan van Eyck Madonna of Chancellor Rolin c.1433-34 (Oil on panel) (66 cm x 61.9 cm) (Louvre, Paris) (10.13)

Identify the ways in which the artist has created space, depth and three-dimensionality in this painting **and** discuss their effectiveness in representing the subject.

Sculpture

Julio González Woman Combing her Hair II 1934 (Iron) (121 cm x 60 cm x 29 cm) (Moderna Museet, Stockholm) (20.23)

Evaluate how the artist has exploited the characteristics of iron to represent the figure in this sculpture.

Figures on the West Portal of Reims Cathedral c.1225-55 (Stone) (approx. life size) (Reims, France) (9.57)

Describe and comment on the figures and their setting in this sculpture.

Architecture

Francesco Borromini S Agnese in Piazza Navona 1653-55 (Stone) (Rome)

Analyse the composition of this building and comment on the relationship between decoration and structure.

Walter Gropius and Adolf Meyer Administration Offices of the Fagus Factory 1911-14 (reinforced concrete, brick and glass) (Alfeld, Germany)

Describe the appearance of this building and consider how it expresses its function.

Unit 2 Themes in History of Art

Subjects and genres

Compare and contrast **two** paintings **and/or** sculptures of the same genre that clearly demonstrate different representations of the subject. You may use examples by the same or different artists.

Describe and comment on **two** sculptural representations of the nude **or two** sculptural representations of the clothed figure. Each of your examples should be by a different artist.

Materials, techniques and processes

Analyse and evaluate the visual characteristics of different media used in **two** paintings of your choice.

Examine the way materials and structural methods impact on the appearance of **two** buildings from a period of your choice.

Form and style

Discuss the variety of ways light and shade has been used in **two** paintings of your choice.

Analyse and evaluate **two** works of sculpture that each displays a **different** style.

Form and function

Identify and comment on how the visual characteristics of **two** buildings convey information about the function and/or purpose of each.

Assess how **two** works of architecture embody political authority.

Historical and social contexts

Assess how far the life events of an artist **or** architect have influenced her or his work. Refer to **two** works by the same artist **or** architect.

Discuss how **two** paintings by the same artist **or** different artists have responded to a specific historical event or events of their time.

Patronage

What do you understand by public patronage? Refer to **two** examples of art **and/or** architecture in your answer.

Assess the influence of patronage on the subject matter and appearance of **two** paintings **and/or** sculptures in a period of your choice.

Social and cultural status

Discuss how the status of an artist **or** architect can influence the reception of their work. Make reference to **two** works by the same artist **or** architect.

Examine and account for the differences **and/or** similarities in status between **two** painters **and/or** sculptors, each working in a different period of your choice.

Gender, nationality and ethnicity

Comment on the ways male artists represent women. Refer to **two** paintings **and/or** sculptures.

To what extent do you think architecture can display national characteristics? Refer to **two** examples in your answer.

Unit 3 Investigation and Interpretation (1)

Unit 3 Topic 1

Art and Architecture in 15th-Century Europe

Select **three** fifteenth-century sculptural representations of religious themes and examine how religious purpose is conveyed in each.

Analyse **three** fifteenth-century religious buildings, explaining how each building communicates religious faith and belief.

Analyse and comment on **three** fifteenth-century altarpieces, each by a different artist.

Consider the influence of secular patrons on the production of **three** works of art **and/or** architecture made in the fifteenth century.

Unit 3 Topic 2

Art and Architecture in 17th-Century Europe

Analyse **three** seventeenth-century sculptural representations of religious themes made by **one or more** artists and show how religious purpose is conveyed in each work?

How **and** why did artists represent landscape in the seventeenth century? Discuss in relation to **three** paintings, each by a different artist.

How did royal patronage influence art in the seventeenth century? Refer to **three** specific paintings **and/or** sculptures in your answer.

Analyse **three** seventeenth-century Catholic churches, explaining how each building communicates religious faith and belief.

Unit 3 Topic 3

Art and Architecture in 19th-Century Europe

Examine **three** nineteenth-century works of art, each made by a different artist, in which the relationship between man and woman has been depicted. How is the relationship conveyed in each work?

Analyse and discuss **three** works of art, each by a different artist, in which the artist appears to be critical of the world in which they were living.

Analyse and interpret **three** nineteenth-century landscape paintings, each created by a different artist.

Analyse and discuss **three** examples of nineteenth-century architecture, each by a different architect, in which iron **and/or** steel was used as a building material.

Unit 3 Topic 4

Art and Architecture in Europe and the United States between 1946 and 2000

Analyse **and** interpret **three** sculptural representations of the human figure, each made by a different artist during this period.

Discuss the differences **and** similarities between **two** paintings, both of which are associated with **either** Abstract Expressionism **or** Pop Art.

Examine the work of **two** artists, working during this period, who have used performance **and/or** video as an art form **and** discuss their reasons for this.

Analyse **and** discuss **three** examples of domestic architecture built between 1946 and 2000.

Unit 4 Investigation and Interpretation (2)

Unit 4 Topic 1

Art and Architecture in 13th- and 14th-Century Europe

Examine and account for the use of animal imagery in art and/or architecture during the thirteenth and/or fourteenth century. Refer to **at least three** specific examples in your answer.

Consider the materials and structure of **three** Gothic cathedrals, discussing the idea that they are products of advanced technology and engineering.

Analyse and comment on the representation of the Madonna (Virgin) and Child in **three** panel paintings made during this period.

Discuss examples of sculpture on the exteriors of **three** buildings constructed or significantly developed during this period, considering the relationship between these sculptures and the architecture.

Unit 4 Topic 2

Art and Architecture in 16th-Century Europe

Examine the differences and similarities between **two** sculptural representations of the human figure, each made by a different artist during the sixteenth century.

Analyse and discuss the representation of the Madonna (Virgin) in **three** sixteenth-century paintings, each by a different artist.

With reference to **three** sixteenth-century narrative paintings each by a different artist, discuss the compositional arrangement **and** assess how it contributes to telling the story in each work.

Analyse the architectural characteristics of **three** sixteenth-century religious buildings, discussing how each conveys its religious purpose.

Unit 4 Topic 3

Art and Architecture in 18th^h-Century Europe

Examine the differences and similarities between **two** sculptures, each containing two or more figures and each made by a different artist in the eighteenth century.

Investigate and discuss how relationships between men and women are represented in **three** eighteenth-century paintings, each by a different artist.

Analyse and discuss **three** portraits **and/or** group portraits, each painted by a different artist during this period.

Analyse the architectural characteristics of **two** churches, one Protestant and one Catholic, built in the eighteenth century. What differences and similarities do you find between your chosen churches?

Unit 4 Topic 4

Art and Architecture in Europe and the United States between 1900 and 1945

Investigate and discuss why some sculptors used found objects in their work during this period. Make reference to **three** sculptures, each by a different artist.

Examine and discuss **three** paintings that show the artistic development **and/or** change in the work of **one** artist working during this period.

Examine **three** paintings by **one** artist, demonstrating how they are associated with **either** Italian Futurism **or** Surrealism.

Analyse the use of materials in **three** works of architecture constructed during this period, explaining how the material affected their appearance.