**AP Art History Exam Free Response Information**

The second section of the AP Art History Exam includes six free response questions made up of two long essays and four short essays. The following pages will provide descriptions and explanations of each type of free response question.

Task Verbs Frequently Used in Free Response Questions

**Attribute:** Identify the artist, culture, art-historical style, or object type of an unknown work of art.

**Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic or work of art.

**Explain:** Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning.

* Explain “how” typically requires analyzing the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome
* Explain “why” typically requires analysis of motivations or reasons for the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome.

**Identify:** Indicate or provide information about a work of art, including title or designation, artist, culture of origin, style, date, or materials, without elaboration or explanation.

**Justify attribution:** Provide rationale or justification for an attribution of an unknown work of art using specific visual and/or contextual evidence.

**AP Exam Free Response: Long Essay Questions**

**Free response question 1: Comparison** is a long essay question that assesses your ability to compare two works of art:

* the first is required, is part of the image set, and provided in the exam image bookle;
* the second is selected by you from a list of two to four works of art from the required image set (images NOT provided in the exam booklet)
* You may also select a different work of art from the same content area

This question assess your ability to do the following:

* Provide two accurate identifiers for the selected work of art
* Describe visual or contextual elements of both the required and selected works of art
* Explain how the two works of art are similar or different in how they convey meaning
* Use specific and relevant visual and/or contextual evidence to support the claim

**Free response question 2: Visual/Contextual Analysis** is a long essay question that assesses your ability to analyze visual and contextual features of a work or art. You are

* given a list of possible images to select from the image set (images NOT provided)
* or you may select a work from the content area stipulated in the question

This question assesses your ability to do the following:

* Provide two accurate identifiers for the selected work of art.
* Respond to the prompt with an art historically defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
* Use specific and relevant visual and/or contextual evidence to support the claim.
* Explain how the evidence supports the claim.

**AP Exam Free Response: Short Answer Questions**

**Free response question 3: Visual Analysis** is a short essay question that assesses your ability to analyze visual elements of a work of art beyond the image set (image provided).

This question assesses your ability to do the following:

* Describe visual elements of a provided image of a work of art beyond the image set.
* Explain how artistic decisions shape visual elements.
* Explain how or why the work of art demonstrates continuity within an artistic tradition, style, or practice; or explain its influence on other artistic production.

**Free response question 4: Contextual Analysis** is a short essay question that assesses your ability to analyze contextual elements of a work of art from the image set (image provided).

This question assess your ability to do the following:

* Describe contextual (and in some instances also visual) elements of a provided image of a work of art in the image set.
* Explain how context influences artistic decision about form, style, materials, content and/or function.
* Explain how an art historical interpretation of a work of art is derived from an analysis of its form, style, materials, content, function, context, reception, or meaning.

**Free response question 5: Attribution** is a short essay question that assesses your ability to attribute a work of art beyond the image set (image provided).

This question assesses your ability to do the following:

* Attribute a work of art to a specific artist, culture, art-historical style, or object type.
* Justify the attribution by providing specific visual evidence.
* Analyze visual and/or context elements of the work of art.

**Free response question 6: Continuity and Change** is a short essay question that assesses your ability to analyze the relationships between a work of art from the image set (image provided) and a related artistic tradition, style, and/or practice.

This question assesses your ability to do the following:

* Describe visual or contextual elements of a work of art.
* Explain how or why the work of art demonstrates continuity or change within an artistic tradition or practice.
* Analyze meaning or significance of an art historical interpretation of the work of art provided.