

College Admission

*AP-Art-History
Advanced Placement Certification Exam*



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Question: 1

Roman architecture is known for its use of which of these elements?

- A. The column
- B. The arch, vault, and dome
- C. Balloon construction
- D. The folded plate roof
- E. Steel and reinforced concrete

Answer: B

Explanation:

Roman architecture is best known for the arch, vault and dome. Columns were introduced by the Greeks and used by Romans, but the Romans did not initiate the use of columns. C, D, and E are all 20th century inventions. C is seen largely in modern home construction and encompasses the use of a truss. D is seen in public buildings such as sporting areas where the floor needs to be unobstructed by columns. Roman sporting arenas were open air, not roofed, and therefore would not have needed this method of construction. And lastly, while Romans did discover concrete, they did not invent steel and therefore could not have had the reinforced concrete of the 20th century.

Question: 2

Roman art and architecture was strongly inspired by which of these?

- A. The Celts
- B. The Asians
- C. The Aborigines
- D. The Greeks and the Etruscans
- E. A and B

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Greeks and Etruscans preceded the Romans in developing elements such as the column, and designed mosaics and wall murals, all of which are visible in Roman art. A is incorrect because the Celts, part of Ireland's cultural heritage, did not produce art work that was emulated by the Romans. B is wrong for the same reason. Therefore, E is also wrong. C is not correct because the Romans had not explored Aboriginal culture in what we now know as Australia, although that culture is also ancient.

Question: 3

Dale Chihuly is famous for his career as

- A. A designer of artistic products for home use
- B. A postmodern architect
- C. An innovative glass blower
- D. An alla prima painter
- E. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

An innovative 20th and 21st century glass blower, Dale Chihuly has designed incredible and inventive assemblies and installations of his blown glass. The ceiling of a section of the Bellagio hotel lobby in Las Vegas showcases his work as an installation, for example. None of the other answers capture the primary focus of his artistic career.

Question: 4

Guernica by Pablo Picasso was a commentary about

- A. The French Revolution
- B. The Spanish Civil War
- C. The dissolution of his marriage
- D. Rights for mental health patients in Spain
- E. Civil unrest in Argentina

Answer: B

Explanation:

Pablo Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain in 1881. He painted Guernica in 1937 to express his feelings about the German bombing of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War. The French Revolution, A, is wrong because it took place before his birth and the painting obviously is not a personal expression about it. The answer cannot be C or D because the subject matter of the painting clearly shows the horror of human loss, suffering, and death, as exemplified by the depiction of the woman holding a dead baby. E is wrong as this work has nothing to do with Argentina.

Question: 5

Benedetto Castiglione first created the monoprint in the 17th century. What is a monoprint?

- A. A printing method that created multiple identical images
- B. A printing method that created one single, unique image

- C. A printing method using mixed media
- D. A printing method that led to using gelatin-silver for photography
- E. A printing method that led to electrostatic printing

Answer: B

Explanation:

Monoprints can only be reproduced once, hence their uniqueness. In fact, mono means one and is a clue to this answer, therefore A is wrong. C is wrong because it is not the definitive answer. It is possible that mixed media could be used—maybe a combination of ink, drawing, and paint, but these are not the essence of a monoprint. D is entirely wrong. A photographer named Niépce experimented with copying engraving plates and heliography which ultimately led to use of gelatin-silver, and has nothing to do with monoprints. E is incorrect because electrostatic printing relates to modern copiers for making multiple copies of typewritten, computer, or other work.

Question: 6

Printing methods employed in the 17th century in Asia and Europe would have included:

- A. Woodcuts and engravings
- B. Drypoint and monoprints
- C. Silk screening
- D. Both A and B
- E. Both B and C

Answer: D

Explanation:

Both A and B are correct, making D the right and final choice for this question. C is wrong because silk screening was not used until the 20th century. One sees this method used in Andy Warhol's work. Woodcuts, engravings, drypoint, and monoprints all have long histories in many countries and are still used today.

Question: 7

Christo often confounds the public with his

- A. Vibrant pop art
- B. Massive installations
- C. Photo real sidewalk art
- D. Elaborate public fountains
- E. Intricately blown glass

Answer: B

Explanation:

Massive installations. Christo has designed and executed coverings for city buildings, islands in the ocean, walls of soda cans, and miles of fabric fence. Pop art deals with consumer products, trend, and popular culture, therefore A is wrong. Christo does not design realistic drawings for sidewalks, fountains, nor does he blow glass, which eliminates options C, D, and E.

Question: 8

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith could best be described as

- A. A primitive artist
- B. A Native American artist
- C. A self-named Dada artist
- D. A noted art critic
- E. A Pakistani artist

Answer: B

Explanation:

a modern Native American artist, which is suggested by the artist's Native American name.

A an primitive artist, would be possible if Smith was not formally trained. C, D, and E are wrong because Smith is not any of those things. She is not an art critic, an artist from of the Dada (impulsive and non-art) style, or from Pakistan. Smith's work reflects her heritage and has been designed to express her feelings about her ethnicity in the United States.

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