

College Admission

Art-of-the-Western-World

DSST Art of the Western World Exam (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests)



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Question: 1

The early paintings of Eduard Manet and Edgar Degas were:

- A. Realist and later evolved into Impressionistic paintings
- B. Impressionist and later evolved into a realistic style
- C. Baroque in style and featured religious subjects
- D. Influenced by George Braque and Cubism

Answer: A

Explanation:

All art is derivative in the sense that it grows out of the art which preceded it. Manet and Degas are well known as Impressionist artists, but early works were characterized by attention to detail and an accurate representation of reality. Manet and Degas preceded Braque. It is interesting to note that Degas resisted the term Impressionism and always characterized his paintings as realistic and natural. The best answer is a.

Question: 2

Impressionists and Post-Impressionists applied paint liberally and used bright, vivid colors to depict real-life subjects. The difference between the styles was that:

- A. Impressionists emphasized symbols and dramatic, dark colors.
- B. Post-Impressionists rejected vivid colors in favor of pastels and realistic images.
- C. Post-Impressionists were concerned only with the application of bright colors to realistic scenes.
- D. Post-Impressionists were inclined to distort figures and to use geometric forms, and sometimes used unnatural colors.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Post-Impressionists had their roots in Impressionism; however, they went a step further and employed distortion to add new dimensions to the art they produced. Like the Impressionists, they used vibrant natural colors to depict everyday realities but often distorted images and figures to create new realities. They did not compose with geometric shapes, as did the Cubist painters like Picasso and Braque. D is the correct answer.

Question: 3

The Rococo period is characterized by:

- A. Delicate colors and soft, rounded forms, often depicting portraits of cherubs or female romantic figures
- B. Pastoral landscapes of leisurely strolling aristocratic couples
- C. Soft, leafy, shell-like shapes
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Rococo period of 18th century France was manifested by highly ornate interior design, sculpture, and painting. The word Rococo literally means rocks and shells because the rounded and graceful shapes of those objects were carried into the realm of art. The Rococo period in painting featured portraits, pastoral landscapes, and subjects which were pleasantly romantic. The best answer is d, because all of the possible answers apply to the art of the Rococo period.

Question: 4

In the mid-18th century to the early 19th century, the growing opposition of artists to the overly ornate and highly embellished Rococo style spawned a movement toward:

- A. Realism
- B. Impressionism
- C. Expressionism
- D. Neo-Classicism

Answer: D

Explanation:

Neo-Classic artists opposed the extravagant ornamentation and excess of Rococo period art. The Neo-Classicists reverted to the orderly proportions of the ancient world—mainly the values of Rome and Greece. August Ingres and Jacques-Louis David captured the essence of the Neo-Classic movement which took place in the middle of the 18th century and carried over into the 19th. Greco-Roman focus on form and line dominated, and an orderly sense of composition distinguished the move toward Neo-Classicism. The correct answer is d.

Question: 5

Romantic period art flourished around the same time as the Neo-Classic and Rococo periods. Romantic art and sculpture:

- A. Rebelled against the established social and religious order and glorified individual expression
- B. Was entirely reflective of strict religious themes
- C. Was orderly, rational, and composed
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Romantic painters and sculptors rebelled against the established order, including religion. Romantics celebrated the ascendancy of the individual spirit, and placed great importance on the expression of subjective feelings. The Romantic movement was not orderly and rational although compositions in this period were often aesthetically pleasing. Answer c can be ruled out accordingly, and so can b since religion was part of the established order. The best answer is a.

Question: 6

A celebrated American Romantic Period painter whose works embodied the individual and emotional characteristics of American Romanticism is:

- A. William Blake, who painted The Marriage of Heaven and Hell
- B. Francisco Goya, who painted Village Bullfight
- C. Jean-August Ingres, who painted Bonaparte as First Consul
- D. Emmanuel Leutze, who painted Washington Crossing the Delaware

Answer: D

Explanation:

All of the painters offered as answers were Romantic period artists: however, the question asked for an American painter. William Blake was British both a poet and painter, and found subjects in his vivid imagination. Goya was a Spanish Romantic artist, and did paint bullfights among other subjects. The French Romantic Ingres was associated with Bonaparte. The famous painting entitled Washington Crossing the Delaware is distinctly American, making d the only possible answer.

Question: 7

The Hudson River School represents a type of Romantic period painting which:

- A. Featured highly stylized portraits of prominent church leaders
- B. Featured beautiful, idealized portraits of iconic religious figures
- C. Featured beautiful, idealized landscapes of upstate New York
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

The artists of the Hudson River School presented idealized landscapes of the Hudson valley, works that were heralded as the first truly distinct American landscape paintings. One of the best known of the artists of the Hudson River School is Thomas Cole. The romanticized landscapes featured beautiful skies, a Promised Land lush with foliage, and human figures. The correct answer

is c.

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