

Copied from AP Central website (5/5/2010)  
Exam Content

The first AP Art History Exam was administered in 1972. In 1998, the AP Art History Exam premiered the long essay question requiring informed discussion of art beyond the European tradition.

Changes to the AP Art History Exam beginning with the 2010 exam administration:

1. As of 2010, the color images that accompany Section I, Part A, and Section II of the AP Art History Exam are provided to each student in the form of printed color inserts. See Printed Color Images for the 2010 AP Art History Exam for more information about this change.

\* Slides and slide projectors are no longer used in the exam administration.

\* Questions are based on color images in Section I, Part A, and Section II: While it is recommended that students spend the suggested amount of time responding to each question, time management is ultimately each student's responsibility. Students working on the parts of the exam based on color images will be able to move freely from question to question within each part, during the time allotted for each part.

2. Change in the order of the free-response questions:

\* Questions 1 and 2 will be 30-minute essay questions. Question 1 will require students to incorporate in their response at least one example of art beyond the European tradition.

\* Questions 3 through 9 will be 5- or 10-minute essay questions based on color images and/or text.

3. Decision to not count prehistoric examples:

\* The AP Art History Development Committee has been concerned over the years about students' use of prehistoric examples when answering the 30-minute long essays. These long essays typically ask the student to provide contextual information about the work of art, but there is little known about the particular cultures that produced prehistoric art. Students who use prehistoric examples cannot earn full credit because they cannot provide a factual discussion of the context. Therefore, beginning with the 2010 exam, prehistoric examples such as the Woman of Willendorf, the caves of Lascaux, and Stonehenge will not be accepted as appropriate examples.

4. Emphasis on using examples from non-Western cultures other than Egypt and the Ancient Near East:

\* The Development Committee is also concerned about the overuse of Egyptian and Ancient Near East examples for the essay question that asks students to discuss art beyond the European tradition. To address this issue, the committee will add the following statement to the Course Description for 2010: "One of the 30-minute essay questions requires students to incorporate at least one example of art beyond the European tradition into their essays. Ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East are fully covered in the multiple-choice questions in Part I and the short-answer essays in Part II of the exam. The intent of this essay question is to draw from areas such as Africa (beyond ancient Egypt), the Americas, Asia, Islamic cultures, and Oceania."

From: Ms. S. ;)

The following essay questions are from 1998 to 2009.

Noted before each question is a suggestion of which volume of Gardner's Art Through the Ages to look for images to discuss in the questions.

Good luck and God bless!