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# AP<sup>®</sup> European History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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**Question 3: Short Answer, No Stimulus****3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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**(A)** Describe one significant cultural or intellectual change during the Renaissance. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- The increasing emphasis on secular life and achievements as opposed to religious
- The use of classical models for art, literature, and politics
- The focus on the perfection of the individual and the value of individual accomplishments

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**(B)** Explain one cause of cultural or intellectual change during the Renaissance. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Many classical Greek and Roman texts were rediscovered, leading to a greater interest in classical models.
  - The invention of the printing press led to an increase in knowledge and the spread of Renaissance ideas to a larger community.
  - Traditional political and social structures were under stress, leading intellectuals to seek other models for state and society.
  - The accumulation of wealth and political power in Italian city-states led to competition in arts and culture as well as politics.
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- (C)** Describe a significant difference between the art of the Italian Renaissance and the art of the Protestant Reformation. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Renaissance art was more likely to focus on secular themes, while Reformation art was almost exclusively religious.
- Italian Renaissance art tended to stress luxury and the lifestyle of the elite; Protestant Reformation art was more likely to portray people living more modest lives.
- Renaissance art was often intended to enhance the prestige of the patron, while Reformation art was generally intended to be morally instructive.

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**Total for question 3 3 points**

**Important:** After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3** or **4** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) One significant intellectual change during the Renaissance is the shift to the classics of ancient Greece and Rome. The Renaissance changed the intellectual scene away from theology to a study of classical art, as portrayed in Pico Della Mirandola's Platonic Academy. These ideals would create the perfect Renaissance person, through the classics, not religion.

b) One cause of the intellectual change to the classics is Petrarch. Petrarch was the first to start the study of the classics, as humanism. These changes are shown by his title the Father of Humanism. Petrarch began the path for the Renaissance study of the classics by shifting away from religion.

c) A significant ~~difference~~ difference in art of the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation is the focus. In Renaissance art, the focus is on classical ideas, like the gods and goddesses, while the Protestant Reformation focused on the glorification of God and biblical stories. An example of this is the School of Athens, which had a focus on Plato and Aristotle, showing the Renaissance focus on the classics.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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**Important:** After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3** or **4** on this page only. Do **NOT** write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

- A) The Renaissance was a period of significant cultural & intellectual change. Many people began to shift their focus & ideologies towards more classic Greek & Roman literature & politics, & it ~~was~~ began ~~the~~ shift to secularism. Rather than view the world with regards to religion & God in every second of the day, people began to think in a more secular, rational, way.
- B) Many of the cultural & intellectual changes during the Renaissance were ~~due~~ caused, largely in part by the printing press. Before, literary works had to be written & copied by hand, but with the introduction of the printing press, these works could now be mass ~~prod~~ produced & spread much faster, & in vernacular languages too.
- C) The art of the Italian Renaissance & of the Protestant reformation differed in that Italian Renaissance art was more focused on the details of the natural world, whereas art of the Protestant reformation focused more on humanism, & human beings.

**End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4**

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**Important:** After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

A3. During the Renaissance a significant cultural change was the expansion of humanism. Society adapted the ideas of humanism and the culture of society changed.

B3. One cause of intellectual change during the Renaissance was the Gutenberg press. This was the first advanced piece of technology that affected all of society because it allowed people's ideas to spread through publication.

C3. The key difference of art during the Italian Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation, was the ~~protestant~~ art during the Protestant Reformation was more romanticized where as the art from the Renaissance depicted more naturalist ideas and qualities, because the artwork was meant to capture reality and what is actually being shown where ~~protest~~ art from the Protestant Reformation was more symbolic and meant to be interpreted based on the symbols in the artwork.

**End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4**

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### Short Answer Question 3

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

#### Overview

a) Describe one significant cultural or intellectual change during the Renaissance.

Responses to this part of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate description of a significant cultural or intellectual change that took place during the Renaissance (Key Concepts 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3). Acceptable responses were expected to have a historically defensible description of how this change, at least implicitly, was important to the understanding of the cultural and intellectual history of the Renaissance.

b) Explain one cause of cultural or intellectual change during the Renaissance.

Responses to this part of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate explanation, at least implicitly, of a reasonable cause of a cultural or intellectual change during the Renaissance. Acceptable responses were expected to have a historically defensible explanation of how this cause changed, at least implicitly, the cultural and intellectual history of the Renaissance.

c) Describe a significant difference between the art of the Italian Renaissance and the art of the Protestant Reformation.

Responses to this part of the prompt were expected to offer an accurate description of a significant difference between the art of the Italian Renaissance and the art of the Protestant Reformation (Key Concepts 2.2 and 2.3). Acceptable responses were expected to reference, at least implicitly, both the Italian Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation and use specific language to convey a historically defensible difference.

#### Sample: 3A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for part (a) because it describes how the Renaissance “changed the intellectual scene away from theology to the study of classical art.” There is a good use of an example with the discussion of the Platonic Academy.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) because it explains the role of Petrarch as the “Father of Humanism.” The response describes how Petrarch began a shift “away from religion” to “Renaissance study of the classics.”

The response earned 1 point for part (c) because it describes the Renaissance focus on “classical ideas” while the Protestant Reformation focused more on the “glorification of God and biblical stories.” The response also provides an example with the discussion of the portrayal of Greek philosophers in the School of Athens painting as typifying the Renaissance focus on the classical period.

### Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

**Sample: 3B**

**Score: 2**

The response earned 1 point for part (a) because it describes how the Renaissance began to “shift [the] focus” to classical thought and secularism. Secularism is contrasted with religious viewpoints in the second sentence.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) because it offers a minimal explanation of how the printing press “mass produced” works at a much faster rate, as well as encouraging the use of vernacular languages. This is contrasted with hand copying that took place prior to the Renaissance.

The response did not earn the point for part (c). The response attempts a difference in the discussion of the “natural world” being a focus of the Italian Renaissance and on humanism for the Protestant Reformation. These general assertions do provide enough evidence for a minimal understanding of a significant difference between the art of the Italian Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation. The response confuses artistic movements and offers an incorrect contrast.

**Sample: 3C**

**Score: 1**

The response did not earn the point for part (a) because the passing references to humanism and the “culture of society” is not sufficiently specific to be credited as a description of cultural change.

The response earned 1 point for part (b) because it explains, though minimally, how the Gutenberg press “allowed people’s ideas to spread through publication.”

The response did not earn the point for part (c). The response attempts a contrast between the art of the Protestant Reformation as being more “romanticized” while the art of the Renaissance “depicted more naturalist ideas.” The general assertions, as well as the discussion of the art of the Protestant Reformation being “more symbolic and meant to be interpreted based on the symbols in the artwork,” do not accurately describe a significant difference between the art of the Italian Renaissance and the art of the Protestant Reformation.