
AP Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free Response Question 5

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

The work shown is a domestic structure designed by an architect included in the required course content. Correctly attribute the work to that architect.

Using at least two examples of specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.

Using at least two examples of specific contextual evidence, explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.

Scoring Criteria

Task	Points
1 Correctly attributes the work shown to the architect who designed it.	1 point
2 Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.	1 point
3 Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.	1 point
4 Accurately uses ONE example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.	1 point
5 Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.	1 point
Total Possible Score	5 points

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5 (continued)

Scoring Information

Correctly attributes the work shown to the architect who designed it.

Le Corbusier designed the work shown, the Weissenhofsiedlung (the Weissenhof Estate), as an exemplar of modern housing for the *Die Wohnung* (The Home) exhibition in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1927 C.E. It is a two-family structure that is now the Museum Weissenhof. Le Corbusier is also the architect of the Villa Savoye located in Poissy-sur-Seine, France, completed in 1929.

Using at least two examples of specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.

The Museum Weissenhof is similar to Le Corbusier’s Villa Savoye in that both buildings have strict geometric forms and broad planes that dominate their designs. This can be seen in the flat roofs and box-like shapes of the overall forms, as well as in the smooth white wall surfaces, which are punctuated by long ribbons of horizontal strip windows. In both structures Le Corbusier included a roof garden and terrace.

Similar to the Villa Savoye, the primary building materials at the Museum Weissenhof are concrete and steel. In both the infrastructure is visible through Le Corbusier’s use of pilotis: slender supporting columns that elevate the structure from the ground. These pilotis make each structure look, in the words of Le Corbusier, like “a box in the air.”

Using at least two examples of specific contextual evidence, explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work.

In 1926 Le Corbusier distilled the essential tenets of his modern architectural aesthetic into his manifesto “Five Points of a New Architecture.” These tenets — which are demonstrated in the architectural designs of both the Villa Savoye and the Museum Weissenhof — include the use of ground-level pilotis to elevate the structure and to extend garden space beneath; a functional roof acting as a garden and terrace in order to reclaim space lost to the building’s footprint on the land below; a floor plan that is conceived as a flexible open space, able to be subdivided by sliding temporary walls (as seen in his earlier concept for what he called Dom-ino construction); horizontal windows for maximum illumination and ventilation; and a freely designed facade, whose nonload bearing curtain walls act only as the building’s skin.

In his earlier treatise *Towards an Architecture*, Le Corbusier had compared these signature elements of his design forms to those of classical antiquity, specifically his emphasis on geometric shapes, precise ratios and alignments, and overall visual clarity. Le Corbusier had an interest in what he called “type forms,” universal elements of design that he found in many cultures and historical periods, ranging from ancient Greek temples to contemporary automobiles, airplanes, and ocean liners. Le Corbusier included these forms because he considered them to be the building blocks of modern architecture, grounded in history but with a unique expression appropriate to the modern age of technology.

It was in *Towards an Architecture* that Le Corbusier also articulated his much-quoted dictum that “a house is a machine for living in.” By this, Le Corbusier meant that it was important to bring this same concern for fundamental forms into the conception and design of modern domestic architecture. Specifically, Le Corbusier advocated for an emphasis on functionality, and he stipulated that modern ideas of efficiency should drive innovation and advances in architectural design. These were not just houses that Le Corbusier was designing; he was creating through architecture a whole new vision of how people should live in modern society.

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5 (continued)

Central to Le Corbusier’s vision was promoting healthy living by integrating indoor and outdoor spaces. He believed that spending time in nature was an essential component of modern life and, even more, modern leisure. Part of the purpose of the pilotis, for instance, is to promote air circulation, while the windows, terraces, and roof gardens of the structures bring the outside in.

With regard to the Villa Savoye, Le Corbusier’s interest in modern machine forms found its most perfect expression in the automobile, which he saw as a symbol of mobility and efficiency as well as evidence of the possibilities for modern forms of beauty that could be expressed through design and materials. Many of Le Corbusier’s design decisions at Villa Savoye were specifically conceived with the automobile in mind, including elevating living space above the ground to create space for automobiles below and designing sleek, curved walls that accommodate the needs of parking and turning vehicles.

Many of these characteristics — as well as the use of lightweight, industrial materials, the rejection of ornament, and the use of modular forms — are associated with the International Style. These characteristics also exemplify an emphasis on abstraction, innovation, and materials consistent with the aesthetic of modernism.

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5 (continued)

Scoring Notes

1	<p>Correctly attributes the work shown to the architect who designed it.</p> <p>Le Corbusier. Also acceptable: the architect who designed the Villa Savoye (with no other architect listed).</p>
2	<p>Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.</p> <p>The work shown is the Museum Weissenhof, which shares the following similarities with the Villa Savoye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict geometric forms • Broad planes • Flat roofs • Box-like shapes (“box in the air”) • Smooth white wall surfaces/lack of exterior decoration • Long ribbons of horizontal strip windows • Roof gardens and terraces • Pilotis (slender supporting columns that elevate the structure from the ground) • Use of concrete and steel
3	<p>Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.</p> <p>See above.</p>
4	<p>Accurately uses ONE example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Five Points of a New Architecture” explains Le Corbusier’s design: (1) ground-level pilotis elevate the structure and extend garden space beneath; (2) a functional roof acts as a garden and terrace to reclaim space lost to the building’s footprint; (3) an open plan acts as a flexible space; (4) horizontal windows add maximum illumination and ventilation; and (5) a freely designed facade, allows for formal experimentation. • In <i>Towards an Architecture</i>, Le Corbusier compared these elements to those of classical antiquity. • In <i>Towards an Architecture</i> Le Corbusier also articulated that “a house is a machine for living in,” meaning it was important to bring this concern for fundamental forms into modern domestic architecture. Le Corbusier was creating a whole new vision of how people should live in modern society. • Central to Le Corbusier’s vision was promoting healthy living by integrating indoor and outdoor spaces. He believed that spending time in nature was an essential component of modern life. The pilotis promote air circulation. The windows, terraces, and roof gardens bring the outside in. • With regard to the Villa Savoye, Le Corbusier’s interest in modern machine forms found its most perfect expression in the automobile. Many of Le Corbusier’s design decisions were specifically conceived with the automobile in mind, including elevating living space to create space for automobiles below and designing sleek, curved walls that accommodate the needs of parking and turning vehicles. • Exemplifies International Style/modernism as part of Le Corbusier’s aesthetic and the tendency toward innovation, abstraction, and attention to materials evident during this period.

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 5 (continued)

5	Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.
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See above.

5. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The work shown is a domestic structure designed by an architect included in the required course content. Correctly attribute the work to that architect.

Using at least two examples of specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.

Using at least two examples of specific contextual evidence, explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.

Le Corbusier created the domestic structure that is depicted. Le Corbusier also created Villa Savoye which was a work required in the course content. The work can be attributed to Le Corbusier because it utilizes the same three-tier structure as Villa Savoye and supported by a frontal row of columns. The structure depicted has a lower level of a porch in open space, a second level which ~~contains~~ is enclosed and possibly contains a living area, and a third level terrace - which is the same ^{level structure} as Villa ~~at~~ Savoye. This building and Villa Savoye also both have a continuous row of windows on the frontal side. All windows are the same size in building, as they are at Villa Savoye. These ~~same~~ visual elements are characteristic of the Architect's work because they are very functional and correspond with the ~~architect's de~~ Le Corbusier's desire to create a "machine for living". Le Corbusier sought to create a highly function house that he dubbed a "machine for living". The three tiers each have a specific function for this purpose: the primary

Level serves as a patio for the occupants and separates the official living quarters from the ground, the second level is enclosed in the space designated for the occupants to live, and the third level is a terrace meant for the occupants to have some time outside, away from whatever may be happening below. The windows are also functional because they allow natural light in and they open to let cool air in as well. Le Corbusier was part of the modernist movement, and as such abandoned frilly designs for the very clean and practical one seen here. The building only uses white, black, and primary colors. The three-tier structure is not exciting, but does convey function very well - which was typical of modern architecture. The Villa Savoye and likely this work as well were created in the 1950's so during the modernist movement so simplicity of the rows of windows was meant to be functional and convey a very subdued style - typical of modern architecture.

5. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The work shown is a domestic structure designed by an architect included in the required course content. Correctly attribute the work to that architect.

Using at least two examples of specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.

Using at least two examples of specific contextual evidence, explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.

Paul

This work was designed by Le Corbusier, who designed the Villa Savoye. One similarity of this house with Le Corbusier's other works is the ~~most~~ way the ~~home~~ majority of the home is significantly raised ^{with columns} as well as the rooftop patio. There are also many ~~few~~ windows in a row, and all aspects of the home appear stacked. Additionally, all parts of the home are very linear and geometric. These geometric qualities are ~~an~~ ^a major identifying figure not only in Le Corbusier's work, but also in many other modern buildings. This particular house consists of stucco, glass, and steel beams and was ~~created~~ designed around the ~~idea~~ ^{idea}. Modern homes were seen as a "machine for living" and avoided unnecessary glamour and pizzazz. They strived for a more minimalist approach that was solely inspired by functionality and simplicity, not extra, unneeded qualities. This is clearly seen in Le Corbusier's work, as he sticks to fairly subtle colors, and steers away from all forms of extravagance.



Suggested time: 15 minutes.



50

The work shown is a domestic structure designed by an architect included in the required course content. Correctly attribute the work to that architect.

Using at least two examples of specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content.

Using at least two examples of specific contextual evidence, explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect's work.

The work shown can be attributed to the architect
Le Corbusier.

One piece of evidence that justifies this attribution is the use of a row of windows, as seen in Villa Savoye by Le Corbusier. Another piece of evidence is the use of rectangular, thin columns to support the building above, as the bottom level is mostly empty space, as seen in Villa Savoye also.

These visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier's work as they repeatedly appear in his work, such as in Villa Savoye. In Villa Savoye, by Le Corbusier, the work is geometric, white, has a row of windows, and thin, geometric columns supporting the work. As Le Corbusier uses these elements repeatedly, they are characteristic of him.

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

This question asked students to attribute a presumably unknown domestic structure (now the Weissenhof Museum) to the architect who made it (Le Corbusier) by comparing relevant visual similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content: the Villa Savoye. Students were then asked to give at least two examples of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work. This is a work from Later Europe and the Americas (1750–1980 C.E.). The intent of the question was to have students apply their knowledge of the form and function of a work that they had studied to a presumably unknown, but similar, work by the same architect. Students were asked to justify their attribution using both visual and contextual evidence.

Sample: 5A

Score: 5

Task 1: Correctly attributes the work shown to the architect who designed it. (1 point)

The response correctly attributes the work shown to Le Corbusier. The response further identifies the architect as having “also created Villa Savoye.” While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 2: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content. (1 point)

The response uses one example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and the Villa Savoye: The building shown “utilizes the same three-tier structure as Villa Savoye and [is] supported by a frontal row of columns,” in a reference to the pilotis.

Task 3: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content. (1 point)

The response uses another example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and the Villa Savoye: “The structure depicted has a lower level of a porch in open space, a second level which is enclosed and possibly contains a living area, and a third level terrace — which is the same level structure as Villa Savoye.” The response additionally notes that “This building and Villa Savoye also both have a continuous row of windows on the frontal side.” While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 4: Accurately uses ONE example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work. (1 point)

The response uses one example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work. The response explains that Le Corbusier wanted “to create a ‘machine for living.’ Le Corbusier sought to create a highly function[al] house. ... The three tiers each have a specific function for this purpose.” The response then explains which function Le Corbusier intended for each level. For example, the response notes that “the primary level ... separates [sic] the official living quarters from the ground, the second level is the space ... for the occupants to live, and the third level is a terrace meant for the

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2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5 (continued)

occupants to have some time outside.” With these statements, the response demonstrates an understanding of Le Corbusier’s design aesthetic, as articulated in “Five Points of a New Architecture.”

Task 5: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work. (1 point)

The response uses another example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work. The response explains that “Le Corbusier was part of the modernist movement, and as such abandoned frilly designs for the very clean and practical one seen here.” The response further situates Le Corbusier within the context of modernism by explaining that modern architects valued simplicity, as seen in the “simplicity of the row of windows” and “a very subdued style — typical of modern architecture.”

Sample: 5B
Score: 4

Task 1: Correctly attributes the work shown to the architect who designed it. (1 point)

The response correctly attributes the work shown to Le Corbusier. The response further identifies the architect as having “designed the Villa Savoye.” While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 2: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content. (1 point)

The response uses one example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and the Villa Savoye. The response states that both works are “significantly raised with columns,” in a reference to the pilotis.

Task 3: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content. (1 point)

The response uses another example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and the Villa Savoye: Both structures include a “rooftop patio.” The response observes that “Additionally, all parts of the home are very linear and geometric” and “There are also many windows in a row.” While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 4: Accurately uses ONE example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work. (1 point)

The response uses one example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work. The response defines Le Corbusier as a modern architect, explaining that “Modern homes were seen as a ‘machine for living’ and avoided unnecessary glamour and pizzazz.” Modern architects like Le Corbusier “strived for a more minimalistic approach that was solely inspired by functionality and simplicity, not extra, unneeded qualities.”

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5 (continued)

Task 5: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use another example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work. To earn the point the response could have engaged with Le Corbusier’s “Five Points of a New Architecture,” which explains the meaning of architectural elements such as the pilotis and ribbon windows to Le Corbusier.

Sample: 5C

Score: 3

Task 1: Correctly attributes the work shown to the architect who designed it. (1 point)

The response correctly attributes the work shown to Le Corbusier. The response further identifies the architect as having designed the Villa Savoye. While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 2: Accurately uses ONE example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content. (1 point)

The response uses one example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and the Villa Savoye: Both use “rectangular, thin columns to support the building above ... as seen in Villa Savoye also.”

Task 3: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing relevant similarities between the work shown and the work by the same architect in the required course content. (1 point)

The response uses another example of specific visual evidence to justify the attribution by describing a relevant similarity between the work shown and the Villa Savoye: Both works are “geometric” in their form. The response additionally notes that both works are “white” and include “a row of windows.” While not required to earn the point, the additional visual evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 4: Accurately uses ONE example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use one example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work. The response makes an attempt by stating that “Le Corbusier uses these elements repeatedly”; however, the response does not connect the visual elements to Le Corbusier’s design aesthetic. To earn the point the response could have explained Le Corbusier’s interest in exploring fundamental forms, often drawn from classical antiquity, in his designs for domestic structures.

Task 5: Accurately uses ANOTHER example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of that architect’s work. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use another example of specific contextual evidence to explain why these visual elements are characteristic of Le Corbusier’s work.