AP® Art History
2003 Sample Student Responses

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ART HISTORY
SECTION II—Part A
Time—60 minutes
7 Questions

The questions in this part of the examination are based on slides. Each question is separately timed and each slide or set of slides will be shown only for the length of time indicated after the question. YOU ARE TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. Responses that answer the question directly will receive higher scores than those that simply list characteristics or include irrelevant points.

Note: For those questions involving two slides, when you are not asked specifically to name the artists and/or titles of the works, you may refer to the work on the left as (L) and the work on the right as (R).

This examination uses the chronological designations B.C.E. (before the common era) and C.E. (common era). These labels correspond to B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (anno Domini), which are used in some art history textbooks.

1. Identify the art historical period of the manuscript illustration shown. Discuss the artistic styles evident in the work. (5 minutes)

This piece comes from the Carolingian period, and is a painting of matter. Many consider this period the first "Renaissance" of art. The artist is trying to portray a sense of depth and weight to matter and he does this by highlighting. He also tries to portray drapery and how it many naturally fall on a human. The wild brush strokes and various colors give the painting a very hectic feeling. He is also trying to show a third dimension.
Quality by having the writing table be slanted and a landscape scene in the background. In his attempts to show depth, the diagonals of the writing table are asked, giving a distorted perspective.
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This manuscript illustration was done during the early Christian period. The artist shows St. Mark sitting at a desk writing in a book. The artist uses drapery to show the figure below the garments. The artist outlines the figure to make sure it is visual in front of the grassy background. The face and the hair are portrayed very naturalistically with shadows to show the jaw line of the figure. As many hands at this time were portrayed, the figure's
fingers and feet are both very much unregulated.