

# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1

1. Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices.

Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. (30 minutes)

#### **Background:**

The idea of sacred spaces, places where practitioners can evoke or experience the divine or supernatural, is an important concept in virtually all cultures.

Sacred spaces have accommodated a wide range of religious **beliefs**. Some examples of religious beliefs may include but are not limited to:

- Concept of an afterlife: reincarnation, resurrection, ancestor worship
- Concept of divinity
- Communication with the spirit world
- Animated nature
- Cosmic and/or temporal cycles
- Issues of salvation
- Concept of sacredness inherent in specific locations or objects

Sacred spaces provide sites for religious **practices**. Some examples of religious practices may include but are not limited to:

- Ritualized movement, such as processions, pilgrimage, and circumambulation
- Sacrificial offerings and ritual libations
- The veneration of local deities and cult objects
- Ceremonies such as marriage, baptism, and the Eucharist
- Transformative rituals such as initiation and coming-of-age rites
- Burial or commemorative rituals
- Meditation and prayer
- Chanting, musical performance, and dance

Art and architecture at sacred spaces have accommodated religious **beliefs** and **practices**. These may include but are not limited to:

- Natural sites designated as sacred and/or modified to accommodate religious practices
- Platforms, altars, pyramids, or other constructions designed to serve as settings for ceremonies
- Architectural structures designed for the housing and veneration of cult objects such as statues or relics
- Architectural structures designed to accommodate public ceremonies and communal worship
- Burial sites and mortuary temples
- Meetinghouses for public or private rituals and ceremonies
- Sites that commemorate various historical events of religious importance
- Pilgrimage sites and their architecture

# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1 (continued)

#### Students have three tasks:

- (1) To fully identify two appropriate examples of sacred spaces. One sacred space must be from beyond the European tradition.
- (2) To address how each space accommodates religious beliefs.
- (3) To address how each space accommodates religious practices.

Better essays will fully identify two specific, appropriate examples of sacred spaces, one of which is from beyond the European tradition. Successful essays will do more than just identify a space as Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, etc., but will analyze how each space accommodates religious beliefs (Christian, Buddhist, etc.) and practices (Eucharist, pilgrimage, animal and human sacrifice, etc.). The best essays will analyze how sacred spaces and their monuments address cultural beliefs and practices with a high degree of specificity.

Weaker essays may use less-appropriate examples, such as generic structures or examples that are from beyond the European tradition but do not effectively present the religious beliefs and practices of their cultures. The identifications might be vague and merely describe the structures, providing little or no analysis of what went on in them.

#### Points to remember:

- Appropriate choices of sacred spaces are those that clearly reflect the religious beliefs and practices of their culture.
- This question requires an identification that makes it clear to the reader which specific sacred spaces are being discussed. Sometimes the full identification may be located within the body of the essay.
- Sacred spaces do not have to be architectural but can encompass a wide range of other constructed and natural sites.
- These sites and structures can possess iconography or ornamentation that reflects specific religious beliefs, which are analyzed in better responses.
- In order to achieve a high score, the essay must address **both** religious beliefs **and** practices associated with sacred spaces.

#### Scoring Criteria

##### Score Scale 0–9

- 9–8** Fully identifies two appropriate sacred spaces. At least one of these examples must be from beyond the European tradition. Provides a full analysis of how each sacred space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. The lower score is earned when the essay contains some imbalance or has minor errors.
- 7–6** Fully identifies two appropriate sacred spaces. At least one of these examples must be from beyond the European tradition. Provides an analysis of how each sacred space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture, but the analysis is less full than a 9–8 essay. The lower score is earned when the essay is notably unbalanced or contains errors significant enough to weaken the analysis.

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## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1 (continued)

- 5** Identifies two appropriate sacred spaces. At least one of these examples must be from beyond the European tradition. Identification may be incomplete or faulty. Essay may describe how a sacred space accommodates religious beliefs and/or practices within its culture, but it may be unbalanced and contain errors.
- OR**
- Only one appropriate choice is selected, but the essay deals with it fully and correctly. This is the highest score an essay can earn if it deals with only one appropriate choice.
- 4–3** Identifies two sacred spaces. At least one of these examples must be from beyond the European tradition. Identification may be incomplete or faulty, and choices may be generic or inappropriate. Essay may describe how a sacred space accommodates religious beliefs and/or practices within its culture, but the discussion may be unbalanced or general. The lower score is earned when the essay lacks meaningful discussion or contains significant errors.
- OR**
- Only one appropriate choice is identified. The discussion is less full and contains errors. The lower score is earned when the essay is wholly descriptive, lacks meaningful discussion, or contains significant errors.
- 2–1** Identification is incomplete and/or choices are inappropriate. If choices are appropriate, there is no discussion of merit.
- OR**
- Only one appropriate choice is identified, and the essay is incomplete and inaccurate. The lower score is earned when there is no discussion of merit.
- 0** Makes an attempt, but the response is without merit because it restates the question, includes no identifiable choices, or makes only incorrect or irrelevant statements.
- This is a nonresponse, such as a blank paper, crossed-out words, or personal notes.

ART HISTORY

SECTION II

Time—120 minutes

9 Questions

1A<sub>1</sub>

This section of the exam contains the following types of essay questions.

- Question 1 is a 30-minute essay question that is not based on slides.
- Questions 2 through 8 are short essay questions based on slides and/or a quotation from a primary source or document.
- Question 9 is a 30-minute essay question that is not based on slides.

**Note:** This exam 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.

**Directions for Question 1:** You have 30 minutes to answer Question 1. Read the question and take a moment to think about what the question asks. You can receive full credit only by answering the question asked. Therefore, spend a few minutes organizing or outlining your response in the blank space provided above the question. Notes in the blank space will not be graded. Be sure to analyze each question carefully and choose appropriate examples. Identify your examples as fully as possible.

Acropolis -  
Longmen Caves -

1. Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices.

Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. (30 minutes)

Both the Acropolis and the Longmen Caves are sacred places that accommodate religious beliefs and practices. Though they are from different cultures, both works demonstrate the specific values and the rituals associated with these values.

The Acropolis is a temple complex built on a hill overlooking the city of Athens <sup>(Greece)</sup>. The residents would have been able to see the temple at all times, ~~and~~ The Parthenon is the main temple.

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on the Acropolis. It is dedicated to the goddess Athena, who was believed to be the guardian of the city. The location of the Acropolis was determined to be the site where Athena came her patronage against the God Poseidon. Each deity offered a gift to the city: Poseidon created a salt well and Athena provided the olive tree. Athena's gift was determined the better, so her temple (the Parthenon) is ~~far~~ the larger. They also erected a small temple to Poseidon within the complex which was believed to house his well. Athena's original olive tree was believed to be kept on the complex as well, and was treated with extreme veneration. The ~~temple~~ Parthenon is carved with the ~~intended~~ <sup>Victories</sup> ~~intended~~ Victories of Athens and the stories of Athena to visually instruct both their beliefs and thank Athena for the success of the city.

The Acropolis was also designed for the people's practices as well. There is an open space before the temples which allowed for the crowds of worshippers to come on holidays. There were specific areas marked for the sacrifice of animals, and the design of the Parthenon (with its open ~~columns~~ colonades) allowed for the huge statue of Athena to see these sacrifices. Also, the worshippers could see the impressive statue from the outside. The statue did not ~~survive~~ survive but it was built in wood covered in gold, over 20 feet tall. It would have cut an intimidating and glorious figure. On the slopes of the Acropolis there was a theatre built also for worship. It was a small theatre, not directly <sup>adjoining</sup> ~~adjoining~~ the city, which points to it being mostly used on festival days.

One sacred space that is not associated with western tradition is the longon caves. The longon caves are a ~~the~~ rock

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Question 1 is repeated for your convenience.

1. Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices.

Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. (30 minutes)

-cut monastery and worship site for Buddhists in China. The space is cut straight into a mountainside and features a large central Buddha and many flanking sculptures. The Buddha himself is depicted as gentle, despite his large size. He is clothed but his body can be seen through the carved cloth, and it is a strong but ~~almost~~ soft (almost female) body, typical of Chinese Buddhas. His robes are long alluding to Buddha's origins as a rich prince (his robes would stretch due to heavy jewelry) who gave up earthly things to seek enlightenment. His serene facial expression reflects the Buddhist belief that enlightenment was the end of all earthly cares and that Buddha was the first to reach it (therefore a model for all).

The purpose of the structure is far one of the most important Buddhist practices: the giving up of family, friends, and possessions to pursue an ascetic lifestyle, and enlightenment. The longmen caves were a monastery, where those practicing Buddhism could live. The structure was far from any city and any distractions from enlightenment. However, the size of the outside statues show how these monks were secluded but not hiding because those who wished could find and join them. The Buddhist value of privacy and self-reflection is obvious from the entrance of the ~~the~~ monastery. The doors were behind the main Buddha statue, hidden from view but not defended. In this way, the Buddha statue remained part of everyday life for those who practiced the monastic life.

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ART HISTORY  
SECTION II  
Time—120 minutes  
9 Questions

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San Vitale - early byzantine  
Dome of the rock

1. Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices.

Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. (30 minutes)

Every culture had different beliefs and chooses different ways to exemplify those beliefs. Some cultures choose to use churches for their sacred spaces, and others use <sup>worship</sup> special structures. A very sacred place for the Muslims is in Jerusalem, where ~~there~~ a beautiful building was therefore built. This <sup>sacred</sup> building is called

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Dome of the Rock, and was built in around 700 CE. The ~~large~~ colossal sized golden dome ~~can~~ can ~~be~~ be seen at very far distances and sparkle ~~above~~ over the horizon. It ~~is~~ is a centrally ~~planned~~ planned building and covered inside and out with beautiful mosaic. The reason this ~~place~~ <sup>rock</sup> is so sacred is because it is where ~~the prophet Muhammad~~ Muhammad ascended to heaven, the sacrifice of Isaac ~~took~~ place, the temple of Jerusalem ~~stood~~, and Adam was buried. These very important religious and historical beliefs were extremely important to many people, which is why a magnificent building is built to honor all that took place there on the rock ~~inside~~ inside the Dome of the Rock. Many mosaics ~~cover~~ cover the building, none of which portray any type of ruler. The Muslims didn't want to portray any ruler in the mosaic, as to not force their ~~own~~ beliefs upon anyone entering or examining the building. Therefore, only geometric and colorful designs take over the building. Geometric designs ~~are~~ were generally important ~~to~~ in Islamic art, including calligraphy, arabesque, and ~~decorative~~ tessellation. The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem was a magnificent way for ~~the~~ the Muslims to portray what was so important to them, along with showing their architectural talents. The ~~gold~~ gold-covered

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Question 1 is repeated for your convenience.

1B<sub>3</sub>

1. Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices.

Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. (30 minutes)

~~The~~ dome practically takes over the actual building itself, and really ~~it~~ stands out not only contrasted to the mosaic covered building, but in all of Jerusalem as well.

~~The Pantheon~~

~~The Pantheon~~ ~~is a centrally planned sacred space~~  
~~in the Pantheon~~

The Muslim exemplified what was beautiful and important to them in a way that fascinated anyone who sees it. Another wonder to the eye that is in a way very similar to the dome of the rock is the Pantheon from ~~around~~ Early Roman Empire, around 100 CE. Built by Apollodorus of Tralles and Hadrianus of Damascus, the Pantheon was an incredibly religious experience, for all those who enter it. The Pantheon was built not for one specific god, but <sup>to worship</sup> all the gods. It is a centrally planned building, similar to the dome of the rock, and is just as much a wonder to the eyes. The Pantheon

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It has a massive dome, with a large oculus that allows light to filter in on to the marble walls and floor below. ~~It~~ In order to lighten the weight of the dome, coffers were made and pendentives were used as well to transfer the weight onto the piers. In each coffer, there was a beautiful ~~gold~~ gold rose to ~~illuminate~~ make the dome look like an illuminated sparkling sky. There were 8 columns at the entrance and a large pendentive similar to ~~an~~ Etruscan building.

Both the Dome of the Rock and the Pantheon ~~are~~ were very important buildings to the ~~ancient~~ civilization at the time. They were beautifully built, ~~and~~ but held a very ~~strong~~ significant meaning and incredible experience to all <sup>those</sup> who enter there.

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ART HISTORY

SECTION II

Time—120 minutes

9 Questions

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ELAN  
· DOME OF THE ROCK  
POME  
· ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL  
· VATICAN

1. Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices.

Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture. (30 minutes)

Cultures set aside sacred areas for ~~people~~ religion and for the <sup>practicing</sup> ~~practicing~~ of that religion. Each culture has their own, individual, sacred space. Those that believe in Islam have ~~the~~ the Dome of the Rock and for those that believe in Christianity or Catholicism, there is the St. Peter's Cathedral.

In the Middle East there is the Dome of the Rock, which houses the religion Islam. Muslims believe that ~~the~~ the location of the Dome of the Rock, is where Muhammad ascended to Heaven. Followers of Muhammad

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IC2

worship outside of the structure facing a certain direction.

In the Vatican of Rome, Christians and Catholics can turn to St. Peter's Cathedral. ~~Home to the Pope and St. Peter's Cathedral~~ is home to the Pope and the Catholic religion. The Cathedral is grand in size with an undulating colonnade similar to arms that welcome those to the church.

~~Inside the church, people are able to pray to Christ and the saints.~~  
The Vatican is one of the most ~~holy and Catholic~~ holy and Catholic areas. St. Peter's inside the Vatican represent the Catholic faith and is an ~~are~~ area for the Pope to preach to his followers. Mass is held inside for ~~the~~ those that believe in Catholicism. These people participate and practice their faith by listening to the readings and the priest's or Pope's sermon.

Both sacred spaces were constructed and ornamented with figures and designs relative to ~~the~~ his belief. The architecture of both spaces were well thought of and made ~~to~~ to symbolize certain aspects from each religion.

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# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 1

#### Overview

This 30-minute question asked students to discuss, in a critical and analytical manner, two examples of sacred space from different cultures, at least one of which was from a culture beyond the European tradition. The intent is to introduce students to global art traditions and to have them critically address material in a way they may not have considered prior to the exam, developing an essay that goes beyond mere description. Since 2006, topics for the question that includes art from beyond the European tradition have not been announced in advance. This year's question asked students to fully identify works selected from memory and to discuss how the spaces accommodated *both* religious beliefs *and* practices within the culture. Examples of religious beliefs could be Islamic, Buddhist, Christian, etc., while examples of religious practices might be pilgrimage, the Eucharist, animal and/or human sacrifices, etc.

#### Sample: 1A

##### Score: 9

The essay selects two appropriate sacred sites, the Acropolis in Athens and the Longmen Caves in China, and fully identifies them. Discussion of the Acropolis addresses the site's historical and religious importance because of its association with the goddess Athena. The essay explores several monuments at the Acropolis, including Poseidon's well, Athena's olive tree, the Parthenon, and the theater below. The discussion of rituals held at the Parthenon addresses both religious practices and the way that architecture at the site accommodates them, and the description of the colonnade hall of the Parthenon and the worshipper seeing an image of Athena agrees with some historical accounts. In addition, the discussion of ritual offerings before an image of Athena is essentially correct; however, these rites were performed before a different shrine to Athena, at the Erechtheion, rather than before the colossal image in the main cella of the Parthenon. This was considered to be a minor error, as it does not detract from the substance of the essay.

Discussion of the Longmen Caves focuses on the site as a complex containing Buddhist imagery and monasteries. The description of the "serene" and "almost feminine [*sic*]" features of the large seated Buddha (in Cave 19) relates the form of the image to the religious belief that the enlightened Buddha is beyond earthly cares. (Note: The colossal Buddha in Cave 19 is considered by many scholars to be an example of the universal Buddha Vairocana, not the more familiar historical Buddha Shakyamuni. However, the elegant treatment of the body in relation to the perfected enlightened state of a Buddha would carry the same meaning for all Buddhas.) Though the essay does not mention the role of royal patronage at this cave, the discussion of how the images reinforce the life choices and practices of Buddhist monks at Longmen is correct. The full and detailed discussion of elements found throughout the Acropolis and in Cave 19 at Longmen and how they reflect and reinforce religious beliefs and practices earned this essay a score of 9.

#### Sample: 1B

##### Score: 5

The essay selects and fully identifies two appropriate choices, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and the Pantheon in Rome. The student explains why the site of the Dome is sacred and states that a belief in this sacredness is the reason for the construction of the Dome. (Note: In the Islamic tradition, the child nearly sacrificed by Abraham was Ishmael, not Isaac, but the essay was not penalized for this error.) A description of its mosaic decoration includes the statement that "[t]he Muslims didn't want to portray any ruler in the mosaics," which appears to address an Islamic prohibition against images in sacred contexts. The essay states that "[g]eometric designs . . . calligraphy, arabesque" were important in Islamic art but does not explore why.

**AP® ART HISTORY**  
**2009 SCORING COMMENTARY**

**Question 1 (continued)**

The essay states that the Pantheon was created to house all the gods and suggests that the building provides an “incredibly religious experience, for all those who enter it.” However, the rest of the discussion focuses on architectural developments and does not address religious beliefs or practices. While providing excellent descriptions of various features of the Dome of the Rock and the Pantheon, the relative weakness of the discussions of religious beliefs and practices, particularly in relation to the Pantheon, earned this essay a score of 5.

**Sample: 1C**  
**Score: 3**

The essay selects and fully identifies two appropriate choices, the Dome of the Rock and St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. The student states that the Dome is an Islamic sacred space but provides no other relevant analysis. The discussion of St. Peter’s is fuller, as it mentions the religious practice of the Mass and explains how the exterior colonnade is “similar to arms that welcome those to the church.” The vague and limited discussions of these sacred sites and the religious beliefs and practices associated with them, particularly in the case of the Dome of the Rock, earned this essay a score of 3.