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
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.
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.
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.

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 Longman 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 those values.

   - The Acropolis is a temple complex built on a hill overlooking the city of Athens. The residents would have been able to see the temple at all times. The Parthenon is the main temple.
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 to 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 longer. They also erected a small temple to Poseidon within the complex which was believed to house his well. Athena's original olive tree was placed to be kept on the complex as well, and was treated with extreme veneration. The Parthenon is carved with Victories, portraits of Athena and the styles of Athena to visually instruct both their beliefs and their 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 temple which allowed for the courts 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 colonnades) allowed for the huge statue of Athena to see these sacrifices. Also, the worshippers could see the imposing statue from the outside. The statue did not survive, but it was built in wood covered in gold, over 60 feet tall. It would have cut an intimidating and glorious figure. On the slopes of the Acropolis there were a theatre built also for worship. It was a small theatre, not directly 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 longmen caves. The Longmen caves are a rock
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- 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 soft (almost feminine) body, typical of Chinese Buddhas. His earlobes are long, alluding to Buddha's origins as a prince (his earlobes would stretch due to heavy jewelry) who gave up earthly things to seek enlightenment. His serene (drowsy) 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 for one of the most important Buddhist practices: the giving up of family, friends, and possessions to pursue an ascetic lifestyle and enlightenment. The large caves were a monastery where these practicing Buddhists 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 isolated because those who wished could join from. The Buddhist values of privacy and self-reflection is obvious from the entrance of 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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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)

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   Every culture has different beliefs and chooses different ways to exemplify these beliefs. Some cultures choose to use churches for their sacred spaces, and others use special monuments. A very sacred place for the Muslims is in Jerusalem, where a beautiful building was therefore built. This building is called...

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   GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.
Dome of the Rock, and was built in around 700 CE. The colossal, sized golden dome can be seen at very far distance and sparkling over the horizon. It is a centrally planned building and covered inside and out with beautiful mosaic. The reason this Dome is so sacred is because it is where the Prophet 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 and inside the Dome of the Rock. Many mosaics cover the building, none of which portray any type of ruler. The mosaics didn’t want to portray any ruler on the mosaic, as to not force their beliefs upon anyone entering or examining the building. Therefore, only geometric and colorful designs take over the building. Geometric designs were generally important in Islamic art, including calligraphy, arabesque, and decorative tessellations. The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem was a magnificent way for the Muslims to portray what was so important to them, along with showing their architectural talent. The gold-covered
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The Pantheon was an increasingly religious experience for all those who enter it. The Pantheon was built not for one specific god, but for all the gods. It is a centrally planned building, similar to the Pantheon. The Pantheon...
her a massive dome, with a large oculus that allows light to filter in on to the marble walls and floor below. In order to lighten the weight of the dome, coffers were made and pendentive were used as well to transfer the weight onto the piers. In each coffer, there was a beautiful gold rose to make the dome look like an illuminated sparsly stage. There were 8 columns at the entrance and a large pedastal similar to etruscan buildings. Both the dome of the colosseum and the Pantheon were very important buildings to the roman civilization at the time. They were beautifully built, but held a very significant meaning and incredible experience to all who enter there.
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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's religion and for the practicing of that religion. Each culture has their own individual sacred space. Those that believe in Islam have 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 it is the location of the Dome of the Rock, is where Muhammad ascended to Heaven. Followers of Muhammad...**

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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 Catholic area holy and Catholic
cities. St. Peter's inside the Vatican represent the Catholic faith
and is an area for the Pope to preach to his followers. Mass
is held inside for 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 belief. The architecture
of both spaces were well thought of and made to symbolize
certain aspects from each religion.
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” 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.
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.