



## AP<sup>®</sup> Art History 2001 Sample Student Responses

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**ART HISTORY**  
**SECTION II—Part B**  
**Time—60 minutes**  
**2 Questions**

**Directions:** You have 60 minutes to answer the two questions in this part. You may wish to spend a few minutes organizing or outlining your response in the blank space provided above each 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.

8. Virtually all of the world's cultures have defined sacred spaces for religious purposes. The design and appearance of these spaces vary greatly. Fully identify two specific sacred spaces, at least one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. For each choice, discuss the relationship between the appearance of the space and its religious function. (30 minutes)

Human development has led a long history of spiritual regiments and desires. In order to serve the needs and wants of people, sacred spaces to practice religion have been developed for many cultures. Hagia Sophia of the Byzantine Empire and Byodo-in of the Japanese Heian era are both places set aside for the spiritual needs of people's daily life.

~~Q114~~

During a building campaign of Justinian and Theodora in Constantinople came the Hagia Sophia. Built by Isidorus of ~~Tralles~~ <sup>Miletus</sup> ~~Tralles~~ a physicist, and Anthemius of Tralles, a geometry specialist, in five years, 523-527, to glorify the Christian religion and the imperial rule. Based on a central dome plan, a large dome inscribed on a square, using pendentives for structural support. It is the earliest ~~use~~ use of pendentives in major buildings. To form a longitudinal nave, conches extend to the inner and outer narthex on one side and to the conch sanctuary on the other. On the sides of the central dome, semi domes rise above exedrae with conch domes on its corners. The nave had open galleries overlooking it. The ~~sanctuary~~ mass took place behind ~~the~~ an embroidered curtain. ~~The~~ The emperor was the only lay person allowed in the sanctuary. Forty windows around the ~~dome~~ central dome challenge its architectural logic by weakening its masonry, but provide the golden light ~~needed~~ needed to produce a floating

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effect of the dome. Worshippers entered through the Narthexes and focused upon the open space and ~~see~~ onto the succession of domes leading to the central dome. The worshipping people then focused on the decorative curtain up to the light filled dome, reflecting the Neoplatonic belief that meditation starts with material focus unto the inspired piety of grace and light.

The Byodo-in of 1050 BCE was originally a secular palace, later dedicated to Pure land Buddhism as it took the prominent role of main religion. Within the Uji Mountains, it is often called Phoenix hall because of its two phoenix figures on the roof and its overall shape mimicing the mythical bird. Situated next to a man made pool in the shape of the Sanskrit ~~to~~ letter A, symbolizing Amida. The buildings ~~light~~ thin columns add a lightness to its structure. The main

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focus within the church is a sculpture of Amida. This sculpture used a new technique by Toch, ~~called~~ called ~~joint-wood~~ joint-wood, that influenced other religious sculpture. Surrounding this sculpture are angles and bodhisattvas. The ~~sculpture~~ building, with its Amida sculpture and landscaping, sets forth the calmness and serenity that is Buddha and the preachings of the Pure Land religion, to reach the Palace of the West only faith is required.

Culture after culture uses religion within their society, regardless of historical period or location. People need a sense of divine and a place to practice their beliefs of the sacred. The Hagia Sophia and the Byodo-in are religious buildings ~~so~~ designed to focus religious attention of the people.

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mosque Cordoba  
- Islamic  
- mosaic  
- no fig  
- qiblah  
- intricate

St. Chapelle Paris  
High Gothic

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Throughout history, many cultures have created structures for religious devotion. Two examples of this are St. Chapelle and the Mosque at ~~Cordoba~~ Cordoba. Man has gone through great lengths to create edifices worthy of their religion/god & the result is a multitude of structures built w/ care, thought & grandeur.

St. Chapelle is located in Paris and is made in the High Gothic style. It is a cathedral especially made for prayer & religious devotion. One can see ~~the~~ the religious implications in the

grand scale of the structure. As was typical of most Gothic cathedrals, St Chapelle's walls rushed toward the sky in an effort to more closely connect w/ God & ~~to~~ create a feeling of grand majesty. The scale also humbles a person. ~~The~~ St. Chapelle is known for its extraordinary stained glass. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the supporting walls is entirely stained glass. The builders of that time used stained glass to create a sort of religious aura or ~~to~~ heavenly light. The flying buttresses that were common of the Gothic cathedrals ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> outer supports for the walls so that a bigger clerestory could be made to create ~~the~~ <sup>room</sup> for the stained glass, ~~pouring~~ <sup>pouring</sup> in "heavenly light".

The plan of the cathedral has a transept intersecting the nave perpendicularly, creating a cross shape. The cross ~~is~~ a great religious symbol of Christ. The people ~~are~~ constructed Gothic cathedrals such as St. Chapelle ~~to~~ in honor of God & went through great lengths to ~~show~~ express a grandeur worthy

The Mosque of Córdoba is a religious place for the Islamic religion. It is located in Spain & was built when the Muslims temporarily occupied ~~the~~ the Iberian peninsula. In mosques such as this one, there was a qiblah to indicate the direction of Mecca, their holy land. The Muslims

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pray facing this direction. Something one would notice upon entering the Mosque at Córdoba, which is typical of mosques, is the entire lack of human figures. As it is against their religion to represent figures, all art of their mosques are devoid of figures but are rather more organic, geometric or patterned. They create intricate patterns in their mosaics for decorations instead of religious scenes. Another feature denoting the structure's religious quality is the added decoration & attention to the more important/religious parts of the building. In the Mosque at Córdoba, as with other mosques, the qiblah is ornately decorated w/ multi-lobed arches as opposed to the typical billowing arches of the rest of the structure.

~~The~~ Since the <sup>first</sup> beginnings of religion, man has felt compelled to construct sacred spaces devoted to their religion. Much time, effort, lives, & money have been put into religious edifices such as the St. Chapelle cathedral & the Mosque at Córdoba.