

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP[®] Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible to receive college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP Art History Course Overview

The AP Art History course, which is equivalent to an introductory college art history survey, focuses on developing students' art historical skills as they examine and analyze major forms of artistic expression from a variety of cultures from ancient times to the present. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, the course also emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art. Students investigate how imagery has shaped our perceptions and behavior throughout time, providing insight into the past and into our own age and culture.

PREREQUISITE

There are no prerequisites for AP Art History.

AP Art History Course Content

Students explore topics generally covered in traditional college and university survey courses, including art and architecture from the medieval and Renaissance periods and art from various cultural traditions. The following topics are covered

- I. Ancient through Medieval (30%)
 - a. Greece and Rome
 - b. Early Christian, Byzantine, Early Medieval
 - c. Romanesque
 - d. Gothic
- II. Renaissance to Present (50%)
 - a. Fourteenth through Sixteenth Centuries
 - b. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
 - c. Nineteenth Century
 - d. Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries
- III. Beyond European Artistic Traditions (20%)
 - a. Africa
 - b. The Americas
 - c. Asia
 - d. Near East
 - e. Oceania
 - f. Global Islamic traditions

AP Art History Exam Structure

AP ART HISTORY EXAM: 3 HOURS

Assessment Overview

The AP Art History Exam questions are designed to test students' knowledge of artists, schools, and movements; chronological periods and significant dates; ways in which artists influenced and were influenced by other artists, traditions, and movements; and the subjects, styles, and techniques of particular works of art. Students are also expected to apply their understanding to analyze known and unknown works of art and construct persuasive arguments based on visual and contextual evidence.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple Choice | 115 Questions | 60 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

- Part A: 5 Sets of questions based on color images
- Part B: Discrete multiple-choice questions

Section II: Free Response | 8 Questions | 120 Minutes | 60% of Exam Score

- Part A: 2 Long essays; one requiring examples of art beyond the European tradition
- Part B: 6 Short essays based on color images and/or text

AP ART HISTORY SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

Sample Multiple-Choice Question

The concept of a divinely sanctioned Manifest Destiny was reinforced by the majestic landscapes of

- (A) Benjamin West and John Singleton Copley
- (B) John Sloan and Aaron Douglas
- (C) John Singer Sargent and Thomas Eakins
- (D) Albert Bierstadt and Frederick Edwin Church

Correct Answer: D

Sample Free-Response Question

Throughout history, art has been used as propaganda to shape public opinion. Propaganda takes many forms, such as architecture, paintings, and print media, and is used to promote religious, political, and social ideologies. Select and fully identify two works, in any medium, that were used to shape public opinion. One of your examples must date before 1900 C.E., and one must date after 1900 C.E. Citing specific elements in each work, analyze how each work conveyed its propagandistic message to its intended audience. (30 minutes)