
AP Art History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

The reconstruction drawing on the left is of the Forum of Trajan in Rome. The image on the right is the Column of Trajan.

Describe both the practical and the symbolic functions for which the Forum of Trajan was built.

Using specific evidence, explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate both the practical and the symbolic functions.

Explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.

Scoring Criteria

Task		Points
1	Accurately describes ONE practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built.	1 point
2	Accurately describes ONE symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built.	1 point
3	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE practical function.	1 point
4	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE symbolic function.	1 point
5	Accurately explains the role the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.	1 point
Total Possible Score		5 points

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Question 3 (continued)

Scoring Information

Describe one practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built.

The Forum of Trajan served as a public meeting space where civic buildings, sacred temples, and commemorative monuments were erected. The Forum of Trajan provided an administrative function in that it accommodated the formulation and implementation of Roman law and justice. It was a place where political bodies met and ceremonial rituals were carried out for the greater benefit of the Roman Empire. The Forum of Trajan also accommodated commercial interactions to boost a thriving economy, though it was more than exclusively a marketplace.

Describe one symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built.

The Forum of Trajan functioned symbolically as propaganda, to glorify the Roman emperor Trajan and his achievements, especially in regard to his leadership in two successful military campaigns against the Dacians. The forum served the symbolic purpose of honoring the emperor, even to the extent of fashioning his deification.

Far from embracing Greek notions of democracy, Roman imperial fora such as the Forum of Trajan reinforced the social hierarchy that elites enjoyed under prosperous rule. They provided spaces that demonstrated Roman loyalty to ancestral practices and traditions. At the same time, imperial fora played a crucial role in bolstering social cohesion within the diverse populations of a growing empire.

Use specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one practical function.

Roman imperial fora provided large open spaces that contrasted emphatically with the crowded Roman streets of the capitol. Here people could congregate in large crowds to meet and converse, and traditional ceremonies were performed.

The Forum of Trajan was the last and most lavish public space of this kind built under Roman imperial patronage. Its focus was a large basilica, or law court, famous for its extensive interior space and its brilliant bronze-tiled roof. Immense rounded extensions, known as apses, located at each end of the building, provided dramatic backdrops for judges during court proceedings. Due to its unusual dominating presence within the forum, this Basilica Ulpia may also have also functioned in other ways, possibly as an imperial audience chamber.

Behind the basilica stood two libraries that housed the emperor's collection of Greek and Latin manuscripts. These libraries served as a repository of ideas and accounts that both honored and contributed to the historical legacies of the antique world.

Because building the Forum of Trajan necessitated the destruction of a large part of Rome's commercial sector, the designer of the forum, Apollodorus of Damascus, built into the Quirinal Hill a huge multilevel complex of shops and administrative offices known as the Markets of Trajan. This shopping complex utilized durable construction materials, such as brick and concrete, and techniques, such as barrel and groin vaulting, that complied with building codes implemented in Rome after a devastating fire in 64 C.E.

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Question 3 (continued)

Use specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one symbolic function.

Visitors to the Forum of Trajan originally entered the vast space through a triumphal arch that served as a reminder that the immense project was built to commemorate Trajan's two victories against the Dacians. The extensive size and opulent appearance of the forum was made possible by the spoils of these Dacian campaigns, hence symbolizing Trajan's generosity and care for his people.

The enormous main plaza in front of the basilica accommodated the forum's propagandistic function by exhibiting a larger-than-life bronze statue of the emperor on horseback in its exact center. In between the columns of the porticoes on the sides were statues of Roman statesmen, generals, and captured prisoners, all used to glorify the military might of Rome under Trajan's leadership.

The temple behind the basilica was completed after the emperor's death. In accordance with tradition, the structure accommodated the symbolic function of deifying the emperor.

Explain the role the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.

Situated between two libraries, the Column of Trajan depicts the two campaigns that Trajan led against the Dacians. Its continuous spiral narrative frieze is carved in relief and depicts a well-organized, strategically minded Roman army preparing extensively for battle before defending the empire's borders against barbaric hordes. The emperor himself appears numerous times, addressing his troops, making sacrifices to the gods, and fearlessly commanding his armies into battle. At the top a bronze nude statue of the emperor once stood, indicating a god-like status.

The column's role in the overall design can be explained in several ways. The upper part of the column would have been more easily read from the upper levels of the libraries than from the ground. This placement between the two libraries and the Basilica Ulpia, and the scroll-like relief that winds around the column itself, suggests that the column functions as a pictorial history in which the victorious Romans are rewarded for their diligence, foresight, and above all, exceptional leadership under Trajan. An inscription at the base of the column describes how the height marks the original level of the nearby excavated hill, a monumental engineering accomplishment. The interior spiral staircase allows access to the top of the column, making the column also possibly function as a belvedere, providing views of the vast forum. Roman citizens entering the forum would see an axis extending from the entrance leading toward the column at the culminating north end of the massive space, looking upward to see the column rise above the Basilica Ulpia.

After Trajan's death the Roman Senate decided to use the base of the column as a mausoleum, sanctifying the spot as the final resting place of the cremated remains of the emperor Trajan and his wife. This decision implies that the Senate understood the forum to be Trajan's greatest architectural contribution to the city of Rome, and the column became the summation of the emperor's legacy.

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Question 3 (continued)

Scoring Notes

1	<p>Accurately describes ONE practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A public meeting space where civic buildings, sacred temples, and commemorative monuments were erected.• The forum accommodated the formulation and implementation of law and justice.• The forum was a place where political bodies met and ceremonial rituals were carried out.• While the forum accommodated commercial interactions, it was more than exclusively a marketplace.
2	<p>Accurately describes ONE symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Forum of Trajan functioned symbolically as propaganda, to glorify the emperor Trajan and his achievements in leading two successful military campaigns against the Dacians.• It served the symbolic purpose of honoring the emperor, even to the extent of fashioning his deification.• Roman imperial fora reinforced the social hierarchy that elites enjoyed under prosperous rule, providing spaces that demonstrated Roman loyalty to ancestral practices and traditions.• The forum also bolstered social cohesion within the diverse populations of a growing empire.
3	<p>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE practical function.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imperial fora provided large open spaces that contrasted with crowded Roman streets, allowing for the congregation of large crowds to meet, converse, and observe ceremonial rituals.• The focus of the Forum of Trajan was a large basilica, or law court, famous for its extensive interior space. Immense rounded extensions (apses) provided dramatic backdrops for judges during court proceedings. The Basilica Ulpia may have functioned as an imperial audience chamber.• Two libraries behind the basilica housed the emperor's collection of manuscripts. The libraries functioned as a repository of ideas and accounts that both honored and contributed to historical legacies.• It included a complex of multileveled shops and administrative offices, known as the Trajan Markets.

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Question 3 (continued)

4	<p>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE symbolic function.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitors originally entered the vast space through a triumphal arch that served as a reminder that the forum was built to commemorate Trajan's two victories against the Dacians.• The extensive size and opulent appearance of the forum was made possible by the spoils of these Dacian campaigns, symbolizing Trajan's generosity.• The enormous main plaza accommodated the forum's propagandistic function by exhibiting a larger-than-life bronze statue of the emperor on horseback in its exact center. In between the columns of the porticoes on the sides were statues used to glorify Rome's military might under Trajan's leadership.• The temple behind the basilica was completed after the emperor's death. In accordance with tradition, the structure accommodated the symbolic function of deifying the emperor.
5	<p>Accurately explains the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Its placement between two libraries allowed for the column to be viewed from multiple vantage points.• The importance of the height of the column can be found in the inscription at the base, interpreted as marking original the height of the adjacent excavated hill.• Roman citizens could, presumably, climb the interior spiral staircase to view the grandeur of the forum from a great height. In this way the column functioned within the design as a belvedere.• The column's siting, axially positioned at the north end of the forum opposite the entrance, rises above the basilica and can be seen from any place in the forum.• After Trajan's death, the Senate decided to use the base of the column as a mausoleum sanctifying the spot as the final resting place of the cremated remains of Trajan and his wife.

3. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The reconstruction drawing on the left is of the Forum of Trajan. The image on the right is the Column of Trajan.

Describe both the practical and the symbolic functions for which the Forum of Trajan was built.

Using specific evidence, explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate both the practical and the symbolic functions.

Explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.

- markets
- removed hills, larger than other forums
- end point - pinnacle of Trajan's rule → victory over Dacians

The forum of Trajan served, practically, as a center for commerce and a law court. The ~~building~~ complex was located within the center of Rome, the then capital of the Roman Empire. ~~During this time~~ Rome, during this time also served as the center for all commerce, as the ~~proverb~~ phrase goes that "all roads lead to Rome". As the center of the large empire, the forum was a bustling market, as shown by the inclusion of the building of the Markets of Trajan next to the forum. Additionally, this complex included a law court, called the Basilica Ulpia, from which legal proceedings were conducted. This building was constructed in a way that allowed for sound to travel well throughout it and be heard by all within the hall.

The forum was built to also cement the power of Trajan, as he needed to build the forum for legitimacy. By creating the largest forum in Rome, he cemented his legacy as ~~the~~ a very powerful and very rich leader of the people. The inclusion of a horse-back-mounted Trajan let people be reminded of the sponsor of the building in addition to his

symbolic statue. This complex was built to glorify the achievements of Trajan, and so was accompanied by the Column; which showed his military prowess. The inclusion of the column furthered his legitimacy as it showed his army defeating others.

The column was located at the end of the Forum, surrounded by the Greek and Roman libraries. The column showed the pinnacle of Trajan's rule, the triumph over the barbaric Dacians, who were depicted as civilized enemies. This object symbolized the great power of Trajan and allowed people to see the victory he won for the Roman people. ~~Also~~ Located in a courtyard, the column also impresses the power of the Emperor again, as it shows his military prowess, connecting to the symbolic function of the Forum.

3. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The reconstruction drawing on the left is of the Forum of Trajan. The image on the right is the Column of Trajan.

Describe both the practical and the symbolic functions for which the Forum of Trajan was built.

Using specific evidence, explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate both the practical and the symbolic functions.

Explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.

The Forum of Trajan was ^{practically} built for civic usage. In ancient Rome, the Forum of Trajan was supposed to accommodate a market place where ~~many~~ citizens could purchase and sell ~~their~~ ~~commodities~~ commodities and other goods. Apart from this practical ~~use~~ function, the Forum of Trajan also served as an indication of the emperor Trajan's reign and a celebration of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~emp~~ Rome's victory over other ~~and~~ ~~other~~ ~~and~~ ~~other~~ countries. ~~The~~ Different sculptures ~~are~~ ~~representing~~ representing both the Roman soldier and the barbarians were placed inside the forum to emphasize ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Rome's strong military power ~~of~~ during the reign of Trajan.

The Forum of Trajan was built ~~in~~ with a large ~~and~~ public space ^{in the middle,} which was intended for the public. Moreover, the Forum of Trajan included the Basilica Ulpia, a ~~long~~ long, nave-like section with columns aligned on each side. The Basilica Ulpia was built for the ~~the~~ public and ~~government~~ the senators to discuss civic events. Along with the practical part, the Forum of Trajan also incorporated ~~other~~ ~~and~~ symbolic designs. For example, statues and sculptures representing ~~both~~ the Roman soldiers were placed inside the Forum of Trajan, along with the Roman deities. The statue of

the ~~emperor~~ emperor Trajan was placed in the center of the Forum of Trajan.

The Column of Trajan ~~depict~~ depicted the victories Rome had during the Trajan's ~~rule~~ realm. It was meant to celebrate the ~~victories~~ victories and showcased the power of ^{the} Roman empire. It served as an important symbolism and representation of the Forum of Trajan, ~~since it carried the~~

3. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The reconstruction drawing on the left is of the Forum of Trajan. The image on the right is the Column of Trajan.

Describe both the practical and the symbolic functions for which the Forum of Trajan was built.

Using specific evidence, explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate both the practical and the symbolic functions.

Explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan.

*in the center - most important
- historical narrative
- pride in military accomplishments & political*

The Forum of Trajan was built in Imperial Rome, ~~around 100 AD~~. ~~It was built in the year of the Battle of Adrianople.~~ The Forum was built to display the power of Emperor Trajan. It contained many architectural elements including colonades, ^{cells, and offices} peristyles, and contained an equestrian statue in the ^{center} ~~center~~. ~~In terms of practical function, the Forum of Trajan was built to house the Trajan family and all their attendants. Symbolically the complex was meant to represent the vast extent of the Emperor's power with the complex's sheer size; it acted as architecture for power.~~

In addition to the Forum of Trajan was the Column of Trajan, which was purposefully placed in the center of the whole estate to emphasize its significance. The column of Trajan played ~~an~~ ~~the~~ important role as a part of the Forum of Trajan because it is a historical narrative, illustrating the complex visual details regarding the Emperor Trajan's fight against the Dacians. The extensive ~~visual~~ attention to visual details in the miniature bas-relief images that cover the column illustrate the ~~importance~~ of pride the society took in their military accomplishments and political leaders.

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Ultimately, the Forum of Trajan and Column of Trajan illustrate the vast extent of power and military accomplishments/pride by Trajan and the Roman people.

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Question 3

Overview

This question asked students to analyze the Forum of Trajan in terms of the practical and symbolic functions for which it was built and then to explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the forum. This is a work from Ancient Mediterranean (3500 B.C.E.–300 C.E.). The intent of the question was to give students the opportunity to use visual and contextual evidence to explain how a work of architecture is shaped by the artistic intent that led to its creation.

Sample: 3A

Score: 5

Task 1: Accurately describes ONE practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. (1 point)

The response describes one practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built: the Forum of Trajan “served, practically, as a center of commerce and a law court. The complex was located within the center of Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire.”

Task 2: Accurately describes ONE symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. (1 point)

The response describes one symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built: “The complex was built to glorify the achievements of Trajan.” By showing signs of strength and wealth, the forum acted to “cement the power of Trajan” and give his reign “legitimacy.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE practical function. (1 point)

The response uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one practical function. The response explains how Trajan’s “bustling market” was “next to the Forum. Additionally, this complex included a law court, called the Basilica [*sic*] Ulpia, from which legal proceedings were conducted.”

Task 4: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE symbolic function. (1 point)

The response uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one symbolic function. The response explains the importance of the scale of the forum: “By creating the largest forum in Rome, [Trajan] cemented his legacy as a very powerful and very rich leader of the people.” The response also notes how the inclusion of an equestrian statue of Trajan “let people be reminded of the sponsor of the building in addition to his symbolic stature.” While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

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Question 3 (continued)

Task 5: Accurately explains the role the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan. (1 point)

The response explains the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan. The response observes how the Column of Trajan was located “at the end of the Forum, surrounded by the Greek and Roman libraries. The column showed the pinnacle of Trajan’s rule, the triumph over the barbaric Dacians who were depicted as uncivilized enemies. This object symbolized the great power of Trajan and allowed people to see the victory he won for the roman people” through its location “in a courtyard.” In this way the response demonstrates understanding of how the column and its message were located within the overall architectural context of the forum.

Sample: 3B

Score: 4

Task 1: Accurately describes ONE practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. (1 point)

The response describes one practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built: the forum “was practically built for civic usage” with an accommodation for a marketplace.

Task 2: Accurately describes ONE symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. (1 point)

The response describes one symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built: the forum “served as an indication of the emperor Trajan’s reign and a celebration of Rome’s victory over other countries.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE practical function. (1 point)

The response uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one practical function. The response explains how the forum “was built with a large public space in the middle.” The response notes the inclusion of the Basilica Ulpia, “a long, nave-like section with columns aligned on each side” that was used for “civic events.” The response also describes the marketplace “where citizens could purchase and sell commodities.” While not required to earn the point, the additional evidence enhances the quality of the response.

Task 4: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE symbolic function. (1 point)

The response uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one symbolic function. The response explains how the forum contained “sculptures representing both the Roman soldier and the barbarians . . . to emphasize Rome’s strong military power during the reign of Trajan.” The response also notes the inclusion of statues of “Roman deities” as well as “[t]he statue of the emperor Trajan [that] was placed in the center of the Forum of Trajan.”

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Question 3 (continued)

Task 5: Accurately explains the role the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan. The response makes an attempt by describing how the column “depicted the victories Rome had during Trajan’s” rule and notes that the column “was meant to celebrate the victories and showcased the power of the Roman Emperor.” To earn the point the response needed to connect this symbolism to the physical placement of the column within the overall design of the forum: for example, by explaining how the siting of the column within the forum allowed the column — and its message — to be seen from any place in the forum.

Sample: 3C

Score: 2

Task 1: Accurately describes ONE practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not describe one practical function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. The response makes an attempt by stating that “the Forum of Trajan was built to house the Trajan family and all their attendants”; however, this statement is inaccurate.

Task 2: Accurately describes ONE symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built. (1 point)

The response describes one symbolic function for which the Forum of Trajan was built: the forum “was built in Imperial Rome . . . to display the power of Emperor Trajan” and “to represent the vast extent of the Emperor’s power.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE practical function. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one practical function.

Task 4: Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate ONE symbolic function. (1 point)

The response uses specific evidence to explain how the Forum of Trajan was designed to accommodate one symbolic function. The response explains how the forum “acted as architecture for power” by connecting the “complex’s sheer size” with Trajan’s vast political and military power. The response further notes the inclusion of “an equestrian statue in the center” of a space filled with “colonades [*sic*]” and “peristyles.”

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Question 3 (continued)

Task 5: Accurately explains the role the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not explain the role that the Column of Trajan played in the overall design of the Forum of Trajan. The response makes an attempt by stating that the column “was purposefully placed in the center of the whole estate to emphasize its significance”; however, this statement is inaccurate. The response also provides details about the column’s “historical narrative” that shows “Emperor Trajan’s fight against the Dacians.” To earn the point the response needed to connect this narrative of victory to an accurate description of the physical placement of the column within the forum. For example, the response could have explained how the column was placed adjacent to the two libraries to allow the narrative to be viewed from multiple vantage points or how the column’s siting, axially positioned at the north end of the forum, allowed it to be viewed from any place in the forum.