

# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 6

The images show a plan and a view of the pyramid complex at Giza.

Using specific evidence, analyze how the pyramid complex was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. (10 minutes)

#### Background

This question asks students to use specific evidence to analyze how both the beliefs and the practices of Old Kingdom Egypt shaped the pyramid complex at Giza. The evidence can be both visual and contextual. The intent of the question is to prompt students to demonstrate an understanding of how the design of a specific architectural site is determined by the need to accommodate both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it.

The pyramids at Giza, located across the Nile River from present-day Cairo, were part of a vast funerary complex that served as the tombs for the Fourth Dynasty pharaohs Khufu (r. 2551–2528 B.C.E.), Khafre (r. 2520–2494 B.C.E.), and Menkaure (r. 2490–2472 B.C.E.). The complex included covered causeways, valley temples, mortuary temples, chapels, statues, furnishings, artifacts, and the Great Sphinx, believed to bear the likeness of Khafre.

The Giza funerary complex bears witness to specific divine rights of the kings and represents an elaborate funerary sect intended to ensure the pharaohs' immortality. Many Egyptologists believe the complex as a whole served not only as the pharaohs' tombs and temples but also as their palaces in the afterlife. Together these spaces forged a material relationship between this life and the next, serving to connect this world with the afterlife as well as to keep the pharaohs' physical bodies intact, thereby ensuring their presence in the world to come.

Significantly, the pyramid complex at Giza presents a powerful religious testament to ancient Egyptian beliefs about the sun god *Re* as part of the program of the pharaohs' immortality. As a whole, the site was carefully planned to follow the sun's east-west path. The shape of the pyramids was likely designed to reflect the mythological and religious symbolism of *Re*, whose emblem was a pyramidal stone called the *benben*: the symbolic primeval mound that arose from the waters on which the creator god Atum dwelled. The angled triangular faces of the pyramids may also have been meant to represent the slanting rays of the sun and were likely associated with the belief that the pharaohs could use them to climb to the heavens to join *Re*. Further, the pyramids were where Egyptian kings were reborn, just as the sun is reborn each day at dawn: an event that reaffirmed the presence of the god-kings in the afterlife. Fittingly, the four sides of each of the three central pyramids are oriented to the cardinal points of the compass, and the funerary temples associated with the three Giza pyramids face east to the rising sun, further underscoring the connection to *Re*.

The overall design of the pyramid complex also clearly accommodates ancient Egyptian religious practices that focused on the immortality of the pharaohs' *ka*, or life force. To preserve the *ka*, ancient Egyptians believed that the body must remain as intact as possible: a belief that led to the Fourth Dynasty practices of both mummification and entombment. To this end, when each pharaoh died, his embalmed body was ferried across the Nile to his valley temple at Giza. The body was carried across the terrain and placed in the chapel inside the funerary temple. Here, the priest performed a ritual where the spirit of the deceased received offerings from his family and consumed a meal. After these rituals, the pharaoh's body was entombed in a sealed vault.

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## Question 6 (continued)

Khafre's pyramid complex, which serves as the central focus of the image on the left, is the best preserved of the three Great Pyramids. In addition to the pyramid itself, which includes the pharaoh's burial chamber, the complex has a mortuary temple adjoining the pyramid. On the east side, the mortuary temple is connected by a causeway to a valley temple on the floodplain of the Nile. The valley temple is guarded by the Great Sphinx. The colossal statue is carved in sandstone, measuring 65 feet high and 240 feet long, likely dating from the Fourth Dynasty. As a monument, the Great Sphinx is the largest statue from its time and, like the Great Pyramids as a whole, attests to the wealth and the pretensions of the pharaohs. The giant figure seemingly guards the spirit and the tomb of Khafre; its placement near Khafre's valley temple and the causeway leading to the mortuary temple and to his sacred pyramidal tomb reinforces this impression of the sphinx as a guardian figure. In addition, the image of the sphinx was associated with the sun god and was therefore an appropriate image both for the pharaoh and for a tomb complex designed to invoke the symbolism of *Re*.

### Two Tasks for Students

1. Using specific evidence, analyze how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by the beliefs of the culture that built it.
2. Using specific evidence, analyze how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by the practices of the culture that built it.

### Points to Remember

This is a contextual analysis question. While students are not required to identify Old Kingdom Egypt in their responses to the question, they will need to provide at least a general identification of ancient Egypt in order to analyze how the pyramid complex was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it.

The highest score a response can earn if it does not address how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it is 2 points.

In their responses, students are not limited to evidence from the plan and the view. They may also refer to other relevant evidence.

Students are not required to address both the plan and the view.

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### Question 6 (continued)

#### Scoring Criteria

##### 4 points

**Response demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of the question.**

Using specific evidence, the response clearly and accurately analyzes how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. The response may include minor errors that do not have a meaningful effect on the analysis.

##### 3 points

**Response demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the question.**

Using specific evidence, the response accurately analyzes how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. However, the response may be somewhat unbalanced—with a stronger discussion of how the pyramid complex was shaped by either the beliefs or the practices of the culture that built it, although both are represented—and/or may include minor errors that have some effect on the analysis.

##### 2 points

**Response demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the question.**

Using evidence, the response addresses how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it, but the discussion of that evidence is less analytical than descriptive. It may be overly general, simplistic, or unbalanced. For example, the discussion of how the beliefs shaped the pyramid complex may be mostly accurate, whereas the discussion of how the practices shaped the complex may include errors that affect the response.

**OR**

Using specific evidence, the response accurately analyzes how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by either the beliefs or the practices of the culture that built it, not both.

**NOTE:** This is the highest score a response can earn that does not address how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it.

##### 1 point

**Response demonstrates little knowledge and understanding of the question.**

The response demonstrates some general familiarity with the issues raised by the question by discussing how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by the beliefs and/or the practices of the culture that built it. However, the response is weak, overly descriptive, and/or contains significant errors.

##### 0 points

**Response demonstrates no discernible knowledge or understanding of the question.**

The student attempts to respond, but the response makes only incorrect or irrelevant statements. The score of 0 points includes crossed-out words, personal notes, and drawings.

— This is a blank paper only.

6. The images show a plan and a view of the pyramid complex at Giza.

Using specific evidence, analyze how the pyramid complex was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. (10 minutes)

The images show The Great Pyramids of Giza. There are three huge pyramids those of Menkaure, Khafre, and Khufu. Khufu's is the largest. Each pyramid has a valley temple attached to a causeway which is ~~now~~ attached to a funerary temple. These huge pyramids were erected to glorify the ruler as well as provide the ruler with all the necessities he will need in the afterlife. The Egyptians valued the after life and felt that the spirit lives on. Thus they ~~equipped~~ placed in their tombs all the necessities of the after life such as food, drinks, security and many more items. ~~At the~~ The body would be greeted at the valley temple and prepared for burial at the funerary temple where the family would offer offerings and give their last prayers. The tips of the pyramids were oriented in the direction of the compass. The perfect ~~triangular~~ triangular sides were meant to embody the rays of the sun god Ra. The Egyptians viewed the ruler as divine and thus they made these huge and elaborate tombs to house their tombs. These pyramids were a symbol of the power and divine-like nature of the kings.

6. The images show a plan and a view of the pyramid complex at Giza.

Using specific evidence, analyze how the pyramid complex was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. (10 minutes)

The pyramid complex was ~~influenced by~~ created by the ancient ~~Egypt~~ Egyptians and thus adheres to many of the culture's beliefs and practices. The ancient Egyptians attached great importance to life after death and thus ~~powerful figures~~ pharaohs, who ~~were~~ held religious, political and social power were powerful religious, political and social figures, built ~~these~~ these pyramids to house their tombs. The Egyptians believed that the ka, the life spirit of a person, ~~needed a home in the afterlife~~ would exist <sup>survived</sup> in the afterlife. ~~the Pharaoh's~~ Pharaohs The Pharaohs Pharaohs would ~~be~~ want to be mummified and buried with their worldly possessions. ~~The~~ This pyramid complex has the pharaoh's tomb inside the pyramids. However, there were mortuary temples ~~where~~ outside the pyramid where people would worship the pharaoh as a ~~divine~~ god, ~~after he passes~~ The pyramids, ~~also~~ which were originally covered with limestone and ~~even covered~~ at one time had a golden ~~of~~ cap, were brilliant and ~~so~~ represented the power and wealth of the pharaohs. The pyramid complex was devoted to the pharaoh's afterlife and ~~this~~ was thus shaped by the Egyptian's funerary practices and their belief in ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> afterlife.

6. The images show a plan and a view of the pyramid complex at Giza.

Using specific evidence, analyze how the pyramid complex was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. (10 minutes)

The Egyptians believed that their Pharaohs were gods and that when they died they would be able to take all their belongings with them to the afterlife. The Sphinx ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> created in their Pharaoh's likeness and served not only to venerate their ruler but to protect their civilization. The pyramids were used to bury deceased Pharaohs. The enormous size was not only to honor them but because they would bury their Pharaohs with all their belongings to ensure a prosperous afterlife. Both the Sphinx and the pyramids were monuments to their rulers. The pyramids appear mysterious not only due to their size but also their complexity, but the Egyptians believed that any tampering with a tomb once it had been sealed could greatly disrupt the deceased afterlife.

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## 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 6

#### Overview

This 10-minute question asked students to use specific evidence to analyze how both the beliefs and the practices of Old Kingdom Egypt shaped the pyramid complex at Giza. The evidence could be both visual and contextual. The intent of the question was to prompt students to demonstrate an understanding of how the design of a specific architectural site is determined by the need to accommodate both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it.

#### Sample: 6A

##### Score: 4

The response clearly and accurately analyzes how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and practices of the culture that built it. The response begins by naming the specific structures that shape the complex: “Each Pyramid has a valley temple attached to a causeway which is attached to a funerary temple.” The response addresses the large scale of the pyramids in connection to their being “erected to glorify the ruler.” The statement about how “the Egyptians valued the afterlife and felt that the Spirit lives on” is supported by the observation that they “placed in their tombs all the necessities of the afterlife such as food, drinks, security and many more items.” The response specifically addresses the way that the pyramid complex is shaped by the beliefs and practices of ancient Egyptian culture by charting the journey of the deceased from the body’s arrival at the valley temple to the preparation “for burial at the funerary temple where the family would offer offerings and give their last prayers.” The response indicates the orientation of the pyramids according to the compass and further notes that “The perfect triangular sides were meant to embody the rays of the Sun god Ra.” The response concludes by affirming that the ancient Egyptians “viewed the ruler as divine.” This assertion provides a reason why “these huge and elaborate tombs” were created: “These Pyramids were a symbol of the power and divine-like nature of the kings.” In this way, the response demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of the question.

#### Sample: 6B

##### Score: 3

The response accurately analyzes how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and the practices of the culture that built it. The response correctly notes that “The ancient Egyptians attached great importance to life after death,” and, further, that their pharaohs were seen as “powerful religious, political, and social figures [who] built these pyramids to house their tombs.” The response analyzes beliefs by discussing the nature of “the ka, the life spirit of a person,” that continues to “exist in the afterlife.” The practice of mummifying the pharaohs’ bodies and including “worldly possessions” in their tombs adds to the discussion about preparing for the afterlife, to which the complex was “devoted.” Addressing the way “the Egyptian’s [*sic*] funerary practices and their belief in an afterlife” shaped the pyramid complex, the response locates the pharaohs’ tombs inside of the pyramids and correctly states that the mortuary temples “outside” provide space for “worship[ing] the pharaoh as a god.” The response concludes with a physical description of the pyramids’ limestone covering and golden cap as representing “the power and wealth of the pharaohs,” though the “brilliant” effect of these materials is not connected to the ancient Egyptians’ worship of the sun god. In this way, the response demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the question.

#### Sample: 6C

##### Score: 2

The response addresses how the pyramid complex at Giza was shaped by both the beliefs and practices of the culture that built it; however, the discussion is general and the response is less analytical than

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**Question 6 (continued)**

descriptive. The response correctly states that “The Egyptians believed that their Pharaohs were gods and that when they died they would be able to take all their belongings with them to the Afterlife.” The pyramids are correctly described as tombs for “deceased Pharaohs [*sic*],” and their “enormous size” is connected both to the desire “to honor them” as well as “because they would bury their Pharaohs [*sic*] with all their belongings to ensure a prosperous afterlife.” The response makes several observations about the Sphinx: it bore “their Pharaoh’s likeness,” served to “venerate their ruler,” and provided protection. The response concludes that “Both the Sphinx and the pyramids were monuments to their rulers.” In this way, the response demonstrates only some knowledge and understanding of the question.