

AP® ART HISTORY

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

The work shown is Claude Monet's *The Saint-Lazare Station*, painted in Paris in 1877 C.E. In this painting Monet responded to changes in modern Parisian life.

Describe at least two specific changes that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*.

Using specific visual and contextual evidence, analyze how Monet responded to these changes that transformed life in Paris.

Explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.

Scoring Criteria

	Task	Points
1	Accurately identifies ONE specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted <i>The Saint-Lazare Station</i> .	1 point
2	Accurately identifies ANOTHER specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted <i>The Saint-Lazare Station</i> .	1 point
3	Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris.	1 point
4	Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris.	1 point
5	Accurately explains how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.	1 point
	Total Possible Score	5 points

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Question 4 (continued)

Supplemental Scoring Information

Identify two specific changes that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*.

In 1877 Paris had been transformed through industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancements. Under the direction of Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann, prefect of the Seine, new uniform residential buildings were constructed to line the widened, lengthened boulevards, and railway networks were expanded to facilitate travel into and out of the city. This reshaping of the city (known as the Haussmannization of Paris) included the addition of multiple rail station hubs and the enlargement of existing ones such as the Saint-Lazare Station, which nearly tripled in size during Haussmann's renovations. Rapid expansion of railways transformed Parisians' daily lives. It allowed for easier commuting to and from the suburbs and encouraged tourism trips to scenic locations. Improved engine technologies facilitated faster speeds. The expanding middle class supported the growing network of train routes in the pursuit of another new commodity — leisure time. Other transformative changes in Paris included both the invention of photography and the rise of new art movements that were viewed in diverse venues apart from the Salon.

Use specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris.

Monet responded to these changes in both the form and content of the painting. The rapid brush strokes underscore his interest in the fleeting atmospheric conditions and light. The dense, blue belches of smoke from the train partially obscure the engine and the canopy. The orthogonal lines of the foreground dissolve into the energetic brushstrokes of the pervasive haze. Monet's blurred strokes convey a snapshot-like view that evokes the speed of the train. A transitory light streams through the top of the station, filtering through the smoke and flooding onto the platform. Monet bathes the gritty station in the same light and color that typify his Impressionistic portrayals of nature.

In content, Monet chose to depict emblems of modernity that reflected Haussmannization. In the left background a block of residential buildings with uniform rooflines, standardized fenestration, and strong horizontal banding exemplify Haussmann's architecture. In the center background behind the train, the industrial truss of the Pont de l'Europe — a large, star-shaped iron bridge built at the intersection of six boulevards just behind the Saint-Lazare Station — is visible. The scaffolding of the newly renovated station creates a canopy of glass and steel and frames the activities on the arrival platform. In this way, Monet emphasized the commotion of the transportation hub and the modern machinery of the train itself. The viewer stands at the end of the track, directly in line with the black, steaming engine that approaches the platform. The multiple tracks below and the metal structural skeleton overhead create a distinct linear perspective focused on the train. Human activity, relegated to the right-hand side of the image, is less prominently featured, with figures painted in broad, blurred strokes.

Use specific, contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris.

The busy station was a spectacle to view and was repeatedly depicted by artists associated with Impressionism as an emblem of modernity, a new and worthy subject of art. Impressionist artists positioned themselves as “painters of modern life,” to quote the title of Charles Baudelaire's influential essay. According to Baudelaire, the painter's goal was to capture the very nature of modernity, distilling

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Question 4 (continued)

something essential from its fugitive and transitory qualities. A burgeoning middle class was now engaged in commuting, tourism, and leisure, and these new activities enthralled artists and *flâneurs*. Monet's contemporaries Manet and Caillebotte also painted the Saint-Lazare Station and its environs.

Monet lived in the bustling quarter around the station and was a keen observer of the new Paris. Working outside the studio was paramount. Historical accounts suggest that he even commandeered the station and arranged for trains to be stoked with extra coal so that he could achieve visual effects consistent with trains as technological symbols of rapid transportation. This work is but one painting from a series of similar views. These works proved difficult to sell, but prefigured the significant series of haystacks and cathedrals the artist produced later on. By embracing an innovative subject in a series of paintings, Monet depicted modern Paris as a source of fascination.

Explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.

Hausmann's reshaping of Paris profoundly affected modern Parisian society. Like other Impressionists in the 1870s, Monet held a generally positive view of this dynamic change, and he placed himself at the center of it. He sought to make art of and about his own time, and he chose the train as an apt symbol of the modern world. In *The Saint-Lazare Station*, Monet's attention to this hub of modern activity, and his repeated return to it in 11 other paintings, signals his belief that modern Parisian life was well worth depicting. Indeed, this particular painting has been interpreted as a paean to Paris' rapid transformation, with the very structure of the station compared to the vaulted nave of a Gothic cathedral. Industry, in the form of the train, is enshrined in the center. As the novelist Émile Zola wrote about Monet's rendering of the Saint-Lazare Station, "You can hear the trains rumbling in, see the smoke billow up under the huge roofs . . . That is where painting is today . . . Our artists have to find the poetry in the train stations, the way their fathers found poetry in forests and rivers." For Monet, the changing atmospheric effects of the station were no less important a subject than the haystacks, water lilies, and cathedrals he was later to explore. In *The St. Lazare Station* the artist registered the profound restructuring of Paris's architecture and transportation infrastructures, while also conveying a constantly shifting, fleeting sense of perception and experience that he appears to have found exhilarating.

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Question 4 (continued)

Scoring Notes

1	<p>Accurately identifies ONE specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted <i>The Saint-Lazare Station</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industrialization, urbanization, and technology• Trains and train travel• Renovation of streets and neighborhoods• Architectural innovations: steel, iron, and glass• Photography and new styles of art
2	<p>Accurately identifies ANOTHER specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted <i>The Saint-Lazare Station</i>.</p> <p>Same as above.</p>
3	<p>Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used color freely to record effects of light in an urban environment.• Used rapid, painterly brush strokes to depict the dynamic atmosphere.• Blurred the paint to echo the new sense of speed in train travel.• Depicted the station and its activities in the style of Impressionism, as if it was a landscape.
4	<p>Accurately uses specific, contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris.</p> <p>Context of the train station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new way of life — including commuting, tourism, and leisure — was made possible by train travel.• The station — a busy, noisy point of exchange — was a new and fascinating subject for painters. <p>Context of Paris in 1877</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parisian streets and neighborhoods were transformed through the projects of Baron Haussmann.• The St. Lazare Station was the hub of a rapidly developing neighborhood popular with artists.• Flâneurs were fascinated with spectacles of modern Paris such as the station. <p>Context of Monet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made studies on site at the station and finished works in his studio.• Worked in a series format to create various snapshots of the station.• In contrast with academic values, Monet embraced modernity as a desirable subject.

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Question 4 (continued)

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| 5 | <p>Accurately explains how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conveys a positive view of modern Parisian life by embracing an innovative subject for a series.• Conveys bustle and excitement by depicting a transitory glimpse of atmosphere and light.• Compositionally, Monet enshrines the train in an architectural setting reminiscent of a cathedral, suggesting that it is worthy of worship. |
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4 A,

4. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The work shown is Claude Monet's *The Saint-Lazare Station*, painted in Paris in 1877 C.E. In this painting, Monet responded to changes in modern Parisian life.

Describe at least two specific changes that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*.

Using specific visual and contextual evidence, analyze how Monet responded to these changes that transformed life in Paris.

Explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.

The introduction of the railroad, while not ~~entirely~~ new, had made significant advances both in France and abroad. The railroad had become more advanced, with better signaling and more widespread, connecting areas that had been unconnected by rail previously. (Indeed, in America, the Transcontinental Railway had just been completed 8 years prior). People began to move out ~~to the~~ of the city center and into newly developing suburbs. (Even Monet did. He worked in Paris, but lived in a suburb outside of it). Thus commuter trains became central to people's lives.

While many impressionist painters were known for their landscape paintings, few chose to depict industrialization and modern progress for a subject alone. Instead, it would often be included in the piece, but not be the main focus. Here, Monet focuses on something he would have daily seen, as well as thousands of other Parisians. Monet focuses on the ~~low~~ train sheds light, and how smoke and steam

From the locomotives play with it, the changes St. Lazare from a dark train shed into a light, airy high space, turning it into a cathedral. This work is not ~~so much~~ a critique of industrialization, urbanization, and expansion of the railroads, but a celebration of the ordinary. Monet chose to depict the shed ~~transited~~ accurately. He uses smoke and steam to break up the angular and harsh locomotives giving the industrial a soft, almost pastoral feel. Monet's work bears resemblance to Rain, Steam, and Speed on the Great Western by Turner. Like Monet, Turner uses the smoke and steam from the locomotives to break up the harsh lines of the subject as well as ~~to~~ add to the light ~~that~~ the distortion that the smoke plays. Monet and Turner both focused on the light ~~at~~ ~~smoke~~ aspect of railroads and the train itself. Monet however, ~~used this as a series to show different light~~ made multiple paintings of St. Lazare with different frames, and different lighting.

4 B₁

4. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The work shown is Claude Monet's *The Saint-Lazare Station*, painted in Paris in 1877 C.E. In this painting, Monet responded to changes in modern Parisian life.

Describe at least two specific changes that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*.

Using specific visual and contextual evidence, analyze how Monet responded to these changes that transformed life in Paris.

Explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.

Monet, and Impressionist from the late 19th century aimed to portray the environment natural and artificial according to the changing levels of light and color seen in his series of paintings including those of the Palace of Westminster or British houses of Parliament. ~~The~~ Painting during the time of the industrial revolution, Monet experience numerous technological advances that changed modern Parisian life and culture.

One such change include the invention of the steam engine ~~the~~ train featured on the Tracks of ~~the~~ Saint Lazare station. Monet uses variations of light and color to portray the haziness of the ~~the~~ smoke of such train engines, providing the viewer with the perspective of one walking through the ~~hazy~~ hazy smoke. Monet also comments on the growing amount of leisure time and standard of living in industrial cities by featuring middle to upperclass ~~travelers~~ travelers in the background.

of the train station. They don't appear like individuals, but like a unit characterized by changes in color, something that could have been influenced by the growing ~~of~~ of a generalized group in Parisian life, the Bourgeoisie, who began to be the main viewers of impressionist work. Unlike his previous natural work, Water Lilies, Monet chooses to include references to the modern, industrial world, as you can see ~~among the~~ with the numerous story buildings in the background, blurred by the pollution of the trains, and the steel beams ~~holding~~ holding ~~the~~ Sainte Lazarre station in place.

4. Suggested time: 15 minutes.

The work shown is Claude Monet's *The Saint-Lazare Station*, painted in Paris in 1877 C.E. In this painting, Monet responded to changes in modern Parisian life.

Describe at least two specific changes that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*.

Using specific visual and contextual evidence, analyze how Monet responded to these changes that transformed life in Paris.

Explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting.

Two specific changes in Paris, ^{France} at the time Monet painted "The Saint-Lazare Station" were industrialization and a growing middle class. Like the rest of the western world, France was rapidly industrializing. Factories and urban life began to replace agricultural jobs and rural life, while ~~the~~ travel by railroad became the norm. Monet responded to these changes ~~in~~ in this painting by depicting a negative attitude toward them. The hazy, dull undertone of this painting shows that ~~the~~ modern Parisian life has become uninteresting due to its changing lifestyle. There is smoke everywhere, which shows that industrialization and ^{the} middle class have come full-force into Parisian life. Industrialization would become the most significant subject shown in French art in the years leading to the twentieth century.

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2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

This question asked students to analyze Claude Monet's *The Saint-Lazare Station* in terms of changes that occurred in modern Parisian life at the time Monet painted the work and then to explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting. This is a work from Later Europe and the Americas (1750–1980 C.E.). The intent of the question was to give students the opportunity to use skills of visual and contextual analysis to explain how an artist, in this case Monet, responded to his specific cultural context.

Sample: 4A

Score: 5

Task 1: Accurately identifies ONE specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*. (1 point)

The response identifies one specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*: the railroad. The response states, “The railroad had become more advanced, with better signaling and more widespread connecting areas that had been unconnected by rail previously.”

Task 2: Accurately identifies ANOTHER specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*. (1 point)

The response identifies another specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*: the development of suburbs. The response states, “People began to move out of the city center and into newly developing suburbs.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. (1 point)

The response uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris, stating that “Monet focuses on the train shed’s light, and how smoke and steam from the locomotives play with it. He changes St. Lazare from a drab train shed into a light, airy high space, turning it into a cathedral.”

Task 4: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. (1 point)

The response uses specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. The response states, “While many Impressionist painters were known for their landscape paintings, few chose to depict industrialization and modern progress for a subject.” This statement alone is enough to earn the point. The response provides additional contextual evidence by observing that Monet “made multiple paintings of St. Lazare with different trains and different lighting,” thereby recognizing that Monet is interested in Paris’s transformation.

Task 5: Accurately explains how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting. (1 point)

The response explains how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting by stating that “This work is not a critique of industrialization, urbanization, and expansion of the railroads, but a celebration of the ordinary. Monet chose to depict the trainshed accurately. He uses smoke and

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Question 4 (continued)

steam to break up the angular and harsh locomotives giving the industrial a soft, almost pastoral feel.” In this way, the response successfully conveys Monet’s positive attitude about modern Parisian life.

Sample: 4B
Score: 4

Task 1: Accurately identifies ONE specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*. (1 point)

The response identifies one specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*: the Industrial Revolution.

Task 2: Accurately identifies ANOTHER specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*. (1 point)

The response identifies another specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*: “the invention of the steam engine.” A third change, the growth of leisure during the 19th century, while not required to earn the point, is also identified.

Task 3: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. (1 point)

The response uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. The response states, “Monet uses variations of light and color to portray the haziness of the smoke of such train engines, providing the viewer with the perspective of one walking through the hazy smoke.” This statement alone was enough to earn the point. The response provides additional visual evidence by observing, “Monet chooses to include references to the modern, industrial world, as you can see with the numerous story buildings in the background, blurred by the pollution of the trains, and the steel beams holding Sainte Lazarre [*sic*] Station in place.”

Task 4: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. (1 point)

The response uses specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. The response states that Monet “comments on the growing amount of leisure time and standard of living in industrial cities by featuring middle to upperclass travelers in the background of the train station.” This contextual reference to the cultural milieu is relevant to Monet’s response to modern Paris.

Task 5: Accurately explains how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting. To earn the point, the response needed to address the artistic choices that conveyed the positive and transitory glimpse of modernity that so fascinated Monet.

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Question 4 (continued)

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

Task 1: Accurately identifies ONE specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*. (1 point)

The response identifies one specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*: industrialization.

Task 2: Accurately identifies ANOTHER specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*. (1 point)

The response identifies another specific change that transformed life in Paris at the time Monet painted *The Saint-Lazare Station*: “a growing middle class.”

Task 3: Accurately uses specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use specific visual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. The response makes an attempt by stating, “There is smoke everywhere.” This is insufficient. To earn the point, the response needed to use this observation about the smoke to support a discussion of industrialization. The response could also have engaged with color, light, or brushwork to express how Monet responded to changes in Paris.

Task 4: Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not use specific contextual evidence to explain how Monet responded in this painting to changes that transformed life in Paris. The response makes an attempt, but merely repeats earlier observations about “industrialization and the middle class.” To earn the point, the response needed to engage with the relevant context of Paris, the train station, or even Monet himself, and connect that context to *The Saint-Lazare Station*.

Task 5: Accurately explains how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting. (0 points)

No point was earned. The response does not accurately explain how Monet conveyed an attitude about modern Parisian life in the painting. The response makes an attempt by expressing that Monet had “a negative attitude.” The response comments that “the hazy, dull undertone of this painting shows that modern Parisian life has become uninteresting due to its changing lifestyle.” This statement is an inaccurate representation of Monet’s view.