

## AP Exam Review / Past Thirty Minute Essay Prompts, 2002-2012

### 2012: Meaningful Materials

Across the world, particular materials that have cultural significance have been used to shape the meaning of works of art. Select and fully identify two specific works made from materials that have cultural significance. At least one of your choices must come from beyond the European tradition. For each work, analyze how the use of particular materials shapes the meaning (religious, social, and/or political) of the work within its cultural context.

### 2012: Domestic Space

For a variety of reasons, artists throughout history have created works of art that depict domestic (household) space. Select and fully identify two works of art that depict domestic space. One of your choices must date prior to 1700 CE and one must date after 1700 CE. Using specific visual evidence, analyze how the depiction of domestic space in each work communicates meaning.

### 2011: Deities and Holy Personages

The visual representation of deities and holy personages is a feature of religious beliefs and practices throughout the world. Select and fully identify two examples of representations of deities or holy personages, in any medium, from two different cultures. At least one of your choices must be from beyond the European tradition. Using specific visual evidence, analyze each work in relation to the religious beliefs and practices within its culture.

### 2011: Outdoor Public Space

Throughout history, art in a wide variety of media has been situated in outdoor public spaces to convey meaning to specific audiences. Select and fully identify two such works. One of your examples must date before 1850 CE and one must date after 1850 CE. For each work, analyze how the work and its placement conveyed meaning to its specific audience within its outdoor public space.

### 2010: Ancestors and Families

Artists within a culture often use depictions of ancestors, siblings, couples, or other types of family groupings to communicate larger social, political, mythical, and historical concerns. Select and fully identify two works, in any medium, that represent family groupings or relationships. The works should come from two different cultures. At least one of the two examples must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss the specific cultural concerns the work communicates and analyze the visual means used to communicate those concerns.

### 2010: Propaganda

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 CE, and one must date after 1900 CE. Citing specific elements in each work, analyze how each work conveyed its propagandistic message to its intended audience.

### 2009: Sacred Space

Cultures designate sacred space in a variety of ways to accommodate both religious beliefs and practices. Select and fully identify two examples of sacred spaces from different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each space accommodates both religious beliefs and practices within its culture.

### 2009: Self-Portraiture

Self-portraiture provides a wide range of information about the artist in addition to physical appearance. Choose and fully identify two self-portraits, in any medium, each from a different art-historical period. Analyze how each self-portrait conveys information about the artist and his or her era.

### 2008: Cultural Attitudes about Women

Cultural attitudes about women are often revealed in art. Select and fully identify two works of art that depict one or more women. The works must come from two different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Explain how each work reveals its culture's attitudes about women.

### 2008: Art Since the 1960s

Art since the 1960s encompasses a wide variety of approaches. Address this variety of approaches through the careful choice and detailed discussion of two works of art made between 1960 and the present. The two works must be by different artists OR in different media. Be sure to identify each work.

### 2007: Hostility and Violence

Throughout history, art representing hostility or violence has been used for a variety of purposes. Select and fully identify two such works of art from two different cultures, one of which must be from beyond the European tradition. Explain how and why each work of art communicates hostility or violence.

### **2007: Technological Developments**

Throughout history, technological developments have enabled artists and architects to express ideas in new ways. Choose and fully identify two works of art or architecture and the specific technological development that made each work possible. One of your choices must date before 1800 CE and one must date after 1800 CE. For each work, analyze how the technological development enabled the artist or architect to express ideas in new ways.

### **2006: Natural World**

Representations of the natural world or motifs from nature are found in the art of all times and places. Choose and fully identify two appropriate works of art from two different cultures. One of your choices must be from beyond the European tradition. Explain why and how each work uses representation of the natural world or motifs from nature.

### **2006: Allegorical or Symbolic Art**

Throughout history, works of art have included symbolic or allegorical images. Select and fully identify two works of art that include symbolic or allegorical images. Your choices must be from different art historical periods. Discuss how each work uses symbols or allegory to convey meaning.

### **2005: Narrative**

Most cultures have made use of art's narrative function. Select and fully identify two works of art that visually convey a narrative. At least one of your choices must be from beyond the European tradition. Identify the subject of each narrative and discuss the means used to convey the narrative.

### **2005: Artist as Innovator**

Frequently in the history of art, artists and architects have challenged established traditions. Select and fully identify two works that challenged established traditions. One example must have been produced before 1800 CE. Discuss how and why each work constituted a significant challenge to accepted artistic conventions of its time.

### **2004: Figurative Art**

This question asks you to explore the stylistic relationships between the form and content of figurative art. How a culture is perceived is often expressed in depictions of the human figure. Choose two specific representations of the human body from different cultures. Only one of your choices may be from a European artistic tradition. Discuss significant aspects of each culture that are revealed by the way in which the human body is depicted.

### **2004: Artist and Patron**

The relationship between an artist or architect and a patron very often shapes the form and content of a work of art or architecture. Identify two works, each from a different art historical period, and name the specific persons who commissioned them. Discuss how the specific interests and intentions of the particular patrons are revealed in each work.

### **2003: Stylized Human Body**

The human body is often highly stylized or abstracted in works of art. Fully identify two works from different cultures in which the body has been highly stylized or abstracted. At least one of your choices must be a work from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how the stylization or abstraction of each figure is related to cultural and/or religious ideas.

### **2003: Original Settings**

In order to understand works of art fully, one must understand their original or intended settings. For example, most works of art in museums have been removed from their original settings. Often a work's original setting has been altered or destroyed or was never completed as planned. Fully identify two works of art that have been removed from their original settings. Each example must come from different original or intended settings. Discuss how knowledge of the original settings contributes to a more complete understanding of each work.

### **2002: Power and Authority in Architecture**

Many cultures use architecture to express or reinforce power and authority. Choose two works of architecture from different cultures, identifying each work as fully as possible. At least one work must come from beyond the European tradition. Discuss how each work conveys power and authority.

### **2002: Image and Text**

Works of art often combine images with text. Choose and fully identify two specific works made after 500 CE that combine images with text. The works must come from different art historical periods. Note: Do not choose works of art with text consisting only of names, labels, or artists' signatures. Discuss the relationship between text and image in the two works you have chosen.