

Texas A&M University (TAMU) ARTS150 Art History Survey II Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. Who is best known for his use of the color field painting technique?

- A. Pablo Picasso**
- B. Jackson Pollock**
- C. Mark Rothko**
- D. Andy Warhol**

2. What is one key feature of Cubism?

- A. Use of vivid colors and intricate patterns**
- B. Depiction of subjects from multiple viewpoints**
- C. Focus on sculptural forms and three-dimensionality**
- D. Celebration of realism in art**

3. Which movements are major influences on the development of performance art?

- A. Classical and Neoclassical Art**
- B. Dada and Futurism**
- C. Impressionism and Realism**
- D. Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism**

4. What is notable about the age of the Feathered Headdress created by Aztec artists?

- A. It is from modern times**
- B. It dates back to the 20th century**
- C. It is from the early 15th to early 16th century**
- D. It originates from the 10th century**

5. What are typical themes explored in Dada art?

- A. Realism, nature, and beauty**
- B. Absurdity, anti-war sentiments, and a rejection of traditional aesthetics**
- C. Romanticism and idealism**
- D. Mysticism, spirituality, and the sublime**

6. Who is considered the pioneer of kinetic art?

- A. Marcel Duchamp**
- B. Alexander Calder**
- C. Pablo Picasso**
- D. Vassily Kandinsky**

7. Which of the following works was created in 1865?

- A. The Stone Breakers**
- B. Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter**
- C. The Nakadaya Tea House**
- D. Luncheon on the Grass**

8. Who painted the "School of Athens"?

- A. Michelangelo Buonarroti**
- B. Raphael Sanzio**
- C. Leonardo da Vinci**
- D. Caravaggio**

9. What material is primarily used for the Fly whisk (Tahiri) by Austra Island artists?

- A. Metal and clay**
- B. Wood and fibers**
- C. Plastic and paint**
- D. Glass and steel**

10. What notable feature is included in the design of the Coronaro Chapel?

- A. Statues of fantastical creatures**
- B. Integration of natural light to enhance the artwork**
- C. Use of dark, moody colors throughout**
- D. Portrayals of the lives of saints**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Who is best known for his use of the color field painting technique?

- A. Pablo Picasso**
- B. Jackson Pollock**
- C. Mark Rothko**
- D. Andy Warhol**

Mark Rothko is best known for his use of the color field painting technique, which emphasizes large expanses of color that create an illusion of depth and evoke emotional responses in the viewer. Rothko's works often feature simple, rectangular forms of color floating against a contrasting background, allowing the colors to interact in a way that enhances their luminosity and intensity. This approach is a hallmark of color field painting, a movement that seeks to distill imagery down to its essential components, focusing on the emotional and spiritual resonance of color rather than on representational forms. Rothko's interest in color as a means of expression set the foundation for the color field painting movement, making him a central figure within it. His exploration of subtle variations in hue and saturation invites personal contemplation and emotional engagement, distinguishing his work within the broader context of modern art. His influence is marked by a commitment to the expressive potential of pure color and its ability to communicate complex feelings.

2. What is one key feature of Cubism?

- A. Use of vivid colors and intricate patterns**
- B. Depiction of subjects from multiple viewpoints**
- C. Focus on sculptural forms and three-dimensionality**
- D. Celebration of realism in art**

The hallmark of Cubism is the depiction of subjects from multiple viewpoints. This innovative approach, initiated by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque in the early 20th century, seeks to break down traditional representations of form and space. In contrast to the realistic and singular perspective that dominated earlier artistic movements, Cubism embraces a fragmented view. Objects are often broken into geometric shapes and reassembled in abstract forms, allowing the viewer to experience different angles and perspectives simultaneously. This technique effectively invites viewers to engage with the artwork on a deeper level, encouraging them to piece together different visual planes and interpretations. By employing this method, Cubism challenges the established norms of representation in art, moving towards abstraction while fundamentally altering the perception of space and form in artistic practice.

3. Which movements are major influences on the development of performance art?

- A. Classical and Neoclassical Art
- B. Dada and Futurism**
- C. Impressionism and Realism
- D. Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism

Dada and Futurism are pivotal movements that significantly influenced the development of performance art. Dada, emerging in the early 20th century as a reaction to the horrors of World War I, challenged traditional artistic values and conventions. It emphasized absurdity, spontaneity, and the anti-art sentiment, encouraging artists to explore unconventional media and encounters. This opened the door for performance art as artists sought to disrupt the status quo and involve audiences in new, engaging ways. Futurism, on the other hand, celebrated modernity, technology, and dynamism, emphasizing action and the energetic qualities of life in the early 20th century. These ideas encouraged artists to redefine how art could be expressed, leading to performances that highlighted movement, physicality, and the integration of technology. The radical ideas from both movements contributed to the eventual rise of performance art, where the body of the artist became a medium in its own right and the act of performance itself became a recognized form of artistic expression. The other options consist of movements that, while significant in their own right, do not possess the same level of direct influence on the traditions of performance art as Dada and Futurism. Classical and Neoclassical Art are rooted in established artistic standards and

4. What is notable about the age of the Feathered Headdress created by Aztec artists?

- A. It is from modern times
- B. It dates back to the 20th century
- C. It is from the early 15th to early 16th century**
- D. It originates from the 10th century

The Feathered Headdress created by Aztec artists is particularly notable for dating back to the early 15th to early 16th century. This time period aligns with the height of the Aztec Empire, showcasing the advanced artistic capabilities and cultural significance of the era. The headdress represents not only the artistic achievements of the Aztec civilization but also their intricate relationship with nature, as it prominently features vibrant feathers from various birds. It serves as an important historical artifact that offers insight into the rituals, societal hierarchies, and craftsmanship of the time. The other time periods suggested highlight an absence of connection to the actual creation of this artifact. Modern times and the 20th century are too recent to align with the established historical context of the Aztec Empire, while the 10th century precedes the peak of Aztec artistic development. Thus, pinpointing the headdress's creation to the early 15th to early 16th century provides a crucial context for understanding its artistic, cultural, and historical significance.

5. What are typical themes explored in Dada art?

- A. Realism, nature, and beauty
- B. Absurdity, anti-war sentiments, and a rejection of traditional aesthetics**
- C. Romanticism and idealism
- D. Mysticism, spirituality, and the sublime

Dada art emerged as a reaction to the chaos and brutality of World War I, and it is characterized by its embrace of absurdity and irrationality. This movement sought to challenge the conventions of art and society, promoting anti-war sentiments as artists grappled with the devastation caused by the war. By rejecting traditional aesthetics, Dada artists often produced works that were provocative, nonsensical, and paradoxical, reflecting a deep skepticism toward established norms and beliefs. This emphasis on absurdity and the critique of the societal mechanisms that led to war exemplifies the core themes of Dadaism, distinguishing it from other artistic movements that emphasize beauty, nature, or spiritual ideals.

6. Who is considered the pioneer of kinetic art?

- A. Marcel Duchamp
- B. Alexander Calder**
- C. Pablo Picasso
- D. Vassily Kandinsky

Alexander Calder is considered the pioneer of kinetic art due to his innovative use of movement in sculpture. He created what are known as "mobiles," which are suspended structures that move with air currents, as well as "stabiles," which are large, stationary sculptures that incorporate elements of movement. Calder's works challenged the traditional understanding of sculpture by introducing motion as a fundamental aspect, thereby transforming static art into dynamic, ever-changing pieces. His focus on the interaction of elements through movement and the incorporation of space into his work laid the groundwork for future artists in the kinetic art movement. Calder's experimentation with form and balance not only distinguished him as a leader in this field but also influenced various art forms, pushing the boundaries of visual perception. Other artists mentioned, while significant in their own rights, did not primarily focus on movement as a central theme of their work.

7. Which of the following works was created in 1865?

- A. The Stone Breakers**
- B. Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter**
- C. The Nakadaya Tea House**
- D. Luncheon on the Grass**

The correct choice, "Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter," was created in 1865 by photographer Alexander Gardner. This work is notable for its documentary style and its role in capturing the realities of the Civil War. Gardner staged the scene on the battlefield of Gettysburg, presenting a poignant commentary on the human cost of war. This photograph is considered one of the iconic images of American history, as it emphasizes both the horror and the impact of conflict through its stark realism. In contrast, "The Stone Breakers," created by Gustave Courbet in 1849, is an important work of realism that depicts laborers and the dignity of work but predates 1865. "The Nakadaya Tea House" is a woodblock print by Utagawa Hiroshige from 1857, also not created in 1865. "Luncheon on the Grass," painted by Édouard Manet in 1863, is a famous work that sparked controversy and debate about artistic conventions of the time, but it was created two years prior to 1865.

8. Who painted the "School of Athens"?

- A. Michelangelo Buonarroti**
- B. Raphael Sanzio**
- C. Leonardo da Vinci**
- D. Caravaggio**

The "School of Athens" is a quintessential work of the High Renaissance, created by Raphael Sanzio. This fresco depicts an idealized gathering of the great philosophers, mathematicians, and scientists of classical antiquity, illustrating the harmony and balance of the Renaissance ideals. Raphael's use of perspective, along with the arrangement of figures and the architectural setting, exemplifies the humanist philosophy that seeks to celebrate knowledge, learning, and the beauty of the human form. Raphael's mastery of composition allows the viewer's eye to be drawn towards the central figures of Plato and Aristotle, symbolizing different approaches to knowledge and understanding. The use of vibrant colors and the animated gestures of the figures contribute to the overall dynamism of the piece. This work is not just a representation of historical figures; it reflects the intellectual spirit of the Renaissance, positioning itself as a celebration of philosophy and the pursuit of wisdom. The other artists listed are notable in their own right, but they did not create the "School of Athens." Michelangelo is known for his sculptures and the Sistine Chapel ceiling; Leonardo da Vinci is celebrated for works like the "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper"; Caravaggio is famous for his dramatic use of chiaroscuro.

9. What material is primarily used for the Fly whisk (Tahiri) by Austra Island artists?

- A. Metal and clay**
- B. Wood and fibers**
- C. Plastic and paint**
- D. Glass and steel**

The Fly whisk (Tahiri) created by Austra Island artists is primarily made from wood and fibers. This choice reflects the traditional materials used in indigenous art from the region. Wood serves as a sturdy base, allowing for both durability and the ability to be intricately carved or shaped, while fibers—often derived from local plants—are used to create the whisking component. This combination not only emphasizes natural and locally sourced materials but also connects to the cultural practices and environmental context of Austra Island art. The use of these materials aligns with the aesthetic and functional aspects of the fly whisk, which is not only a practical object but also an important cultural symbol in ceremonies and daily life.

10. What notable feature is included in the design of the Coronaro Chapel?

- A. Statues of fantastical creatures**
- B. Integration of natural light to enhance the artwork**
- C. Use of dark, moody colors throughout**
- D. Portrayals of the lives of saints**

The design of the Coronaro Chapel in Santa Maria della Vittoria, Rome, showcases a remarkable integration of natural light that dramatically enhances the artwork housed within. This chapel is specifically renowned for its use of light to create a divine atmosphere, particularly as it illuminates the centerpiece statue, "The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa," created by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The strategic placement of windows allows sunlight to flood the interior, spotlighting the sculpture and contributing to its emotional impact. This use of light not only highlights the intricate details of the marble but also reinforces the spiritual narrative of the artwork, creating a transcendent experience for the viewer. This interaction between sculpture and light is a hallmark of Baroque architecture, emphasizing movement, drama, and connection to the divine. While aspects such as the use of fantastical creatures, dark colors, and portrayals of the lives of saints may enhance the overall aesthetic and thematic elements in various artistic works, the defining characteristic of the Coronaro Chapel lies in its innovative and deliberate incorporation of natural light to bring its artistic elements to life.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://tamu-arts150.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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