

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. Which cultural values are emphasized in the Books and Scholars' Accoutrements?**
 - A. Neo-Confucian yangban values**
 - B. Islamic artistic traditions**
 - C. Postmodern aesthetics**
 - D. Ancient Greek philosophy**

- 2. Which artist is famous for his work "The Persistence of Memory" that explores themes of time?**
 - A. Salvador Dali**
 - B. Henri Matisse**
 - C. Pablo Picasso**
 - D. Marc Chagall**

- 3. What artistic tradition does the cabinet from Ayutthaya artists depict?**
 - A. Islamic motifs**
 - B. European monarchs and Hindu deities**
 - C. Ancient Greek designs**
 - D. Abstract floral patterns**

- 4. Which flower arrangement detail is showcased in Rachel Ruysch's 'Flowers in a Glass Vase'?**
 - A. It contains a single species of flower**
 - B. It features a pyramidal composition of various flowers and insects**
 - C. It employs monochromatic color schemes**
 - D. It includes portraits of historical figures**

- 5. In which year was the Arnolfini Portrait painted?**
 - A. 1469**
 - B. 1434**
 - C. 1509**
 - D. 1425**

- 6. What artistic technique is characterized by the use of dramatic lighting and shadow contrasts?**
- A. Pointillism**
 - B. Chiaroscuro**
 - C. Impasto**
 - D. Alla prima**
- 7. Who is a notable figure in the development of Cubism?**
- A. Claude Monet**
 - B. Henri Matisse**
 - C. Pablo Picasso**
 - D. Jackson Pollock**
- 8. What innovative materials were primarily used in the construction of the Crystal Palace?**
- A. Wood and brick**
 - B. Cast iron and glass**
 - C. Concrete and steel**
 - D. Plastic and aluminum**
- 9. What prominent political theme does "The Oath of the Horatii" address?**
- A. The conflict of love and politics**
 - B. The virtues of selfless patriotism**
 - C. The struggles of everyday life**
 - D. The decadence of the French aristocracy**
- 10. What significant aspect of "Casa Mila" contributes to its organic form?**
- A. Use of bright colors**
 - B. Sculptural modeling of limestone**
 - C. Symmetry in design**
 - D. Classic straight lines**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which cultural values are emphasized in the Books and Scholars' Accoutrements?

- A. Neo-Confucian yangban values**
- B. Islamic artistic traditions**
- C. Postmodern aesthetics**
- D. Ancient Greek philosophy**

The emphasis on Neo-Confucian yangban values in "Books and Scholars' Accoutrements" is significant because this artwork reflects the ideals of scholarship, education, and moral cultivation that are central to Neo-Confucianism, particularly in the context of East Asian culture. The yangban class, which consisted of the scholar-officials in Korea and parts of China, upheld a belief in the importance of learning, literature, and the arts as a means of achieving personal virtue and contributing to society. In the depicted items associated with scholars, such as books, writing utensils, and symbolic objects, there is a clear representation of the intellectual pursuits and ethical dimensions valued in this tradition. These elements underscore the respect for knowledge and the role of educated individuals in governance and moral leadership. In contrast, Islamic artistic traditions, postmodern aesthetics, and ancient Greek philosophy emphasize different cultural values and ideas. For instance, Islamic artistic traditions focus on geometric patterns and calligraphy, which don't align with the specific emphasis on Confucian values of education and moral integrity. Postmodern aesthetics often critique traditional values and examine the meaning of art in contemporary contexts, while ancient Greek philosophy revolves around rational thought and the pursuit of knowledge in a different cultural and

2. Which artist is famous for his work "The Persistence of Memory" that explores themes of time?

- A. Salvador Dali**
- B. Henri Matisse**
- C. Pablo Picasso**
- D. Marc Chagall**

"The Persistence of Memory" is a seminal work by Salvador Dali, created in 1931. This painting is iconic within the Surrealist movement and is renowned for its exploration of the fluidity of time, using dreamlike imagery that includes melting clocks draped over a barren landscape. Dali's unique approach challenged conventional perceptions of time and reality, amplifying the psychological and emotional connotations associated with the passage of time. Dali's use of bizarre and surreal imagery helps to convey the distortion of time experienced in dreams, offering viewers a profound commentary on how human consciousness interacts with reality. This thematic focus on the subjective experience of time distinguishes Dali's work from that of other artists listed. Each of the others, while significant figures in art history, is known for different styles and themes, thus highlighting Dali's specific contribution to the discourse on time and consciousness through his visual artistry.

3. What artistic tradition does the cabinet from Ayutthaya artists depict?

- A. Islamic motifs
- B. European monarchs and Hindu deities**
- C. Ancient Greek designs
- D. Abstract floral patterns

The cabinet created by Ayutthaya artists is a significant example of the artistic traditions of the region during the period of Siam's historical flourishing. It incorporates a rich blend of cultural influences, prominently featuring imagery related to European monarchs alongside Hindu deities. This reflects the historical context of the Ayutthaya Kingdom, which was a hub of trade and cultural exchange between different civilizations. The representation of European monarchs showcases the influence of trade relations and diplomatic interactions Ayutthaya had with European powers, while the inclusion of Hindu deities underscores the local religious beliefs and cultural customs prevalent in the area. This synthesis of styles illustrates the unique artistic legacy of the Ayutthaya period, where local traditions were enriched by external influences, creating a distinct hybrid art form. In contrast, options involving Islamic motifs, ancient Greek designs, or abstract floral patterns do not accurately reflect the specific cultural and historical context of the Ayutthaya cabinet. While there may be elements of influence from these traditions elsewhere, the cabinet specifically symbolizes the fusion of European and Hindu iconography that characterized the artistic output during this influential time in Thai history.

4. Which flower arrangement detail is showcased in Rachel Ruysch's 'Flowers in a Glass Vase'?

- A. It contains a single species of flower
- B. It features a pyramidal composition of various flowers and insects**
- C. It employs monochromatic color schemes
- D. It includes portraits of historical figures

The detail highlighted in Rachel Ruysch's 'Flowers in a Glass Vase' is its pyramidal composition, which elegantly integrates various flowers and insects. Ruysch was known for her mastery in floral painting, and this composition technique adds a sense of stability and harmony to the arrangement. The combination of different species of flowers creates a vibrant and diverse visual experience that showcases her skill in botanical accuracy and artistry. By arranging the flowers in a triangular or pyramidal form, Ruysch directs the viewer's attention upwards, enhancing the dynamic of the piece while allowing the viewer to appreciate the intricate details of both the flora and fauna present in the painting. This approach not only emphasizes the natural beauty of the flowers but also symbolizes the fleeting nature of beauty and life, which is a common theme in still-life paintings of the time.

5. In which year was the Arnolfini Portrait painted?

- A. 1469
- B. 1434**
- C. 1509
- D. 1425

The Arnolfini Portrait, painted by Jan van Eyck, is widely recognized as one of the most significant works of early Northern Renaissance art and was created in 1434. This date is well-supported by various art historians and is corroborated by inscriptions found within the painting itself, which indicate its completion during that year. The portrait features a detailed depiction of a couple, traditionally identified as Giovanni di Nicolao di Arnolfini and his wife, and showcases van Eyck's remarkable attention to detail, use of oil paint, and innovative techniques that contributed to the depth and realism of the work. The symbolic elements present in the painting, such as the mirror and the presence of certain objects, are reflective of the cultural and social context of the 15th century. The other dates provided do not align with the historical or art historical consensus regarding the artwork's creation. The significance of the year 1434 is not only foundational for understanding this particular portrait but also contributes to the broader narrative of art development during the Northern Renaissance.

6. What artistic technique is characterized by the use of dramatic lighting and shadow contrasts?

- A. Pointillism
- B. Chiaroscuro**
- C. Impasto
- D. Alla prima

Chiaroscuro is an artistic technique that emphasizes the contrast between light and shadow to create a sense of volume and three-dimensionality in two-dimensional works. This method became particularly prominent during the Renaissance and is used to enhance the dramatic effect of a painting by highlighting certain areas while leaving others in shadow. By manipulating light and dark, artists can guide the viewer's eye to focal points, add depth, and evoke emotional responses. In contrast, pointillism involves the application of small dots of color that blend at a distance to form an image, focusing more on color theory than light manipulation. Impasto refers to a painting technique where paint is laid on the canvas very thickly, creating a texture that stands out from the surface, rather than a focus on light and shadow. Alla prima involves painting a completed work in one sitting without allowing layers to dry, which may not specifically employ dramatic contrasts in light and shadow.

7. Who is a notable figure in the development of Cubism?

- A. Claude Monet
- B. Henri Matisse
- C. Pablo Picasso**
- D. Jackson Pollock

Pablo Picasso is a central figure in the development of Cubism, a revolutionary art movement that emerged in the early 20th century. Alongside Georges Braque, Picasso is credited with pioneering this style, which is characterized by fragmented subjects, abstract forms, and the use of multiple perspectives within a single composition. This approach allowed for a new way of seeing and representing reality, where objects are broken down into geometric shapes and reassembled in a way that challenges traditional representation. Cubism fundamentally changed the course of modern art, influencing countless artists and movements that followed. Picasso's works from this period, such as "Les Femmes d'Alger," exemplify the innovative techniques of Cubism, integrating elements of abstraction and focusing on the structure of objects rather than their surface appearance. The other figures mentioned, while influential in their respective movements and styles, do not hold the same foundational role within Cubism. Claude Monet is associated with Impressionism, Henri Matisse is known for Fauvism, and Jackson Pollock is famous for his contributions to Abstract Expressionism. Each of these movements has its own unique characteristics and impacts on art history, but none are directly tied to the establishment of Cubism as Picasso and Braque are.

8. What innovative materials were primarily used in the construction of the Crystal Palace?

- A. Wood and brick
- B. Cast iron and glass**
- C. Concrete and steel
- D. Plastic and aluminum

The Crystal Palace, constructed for the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London, is renowned for its innovative use of materials, particularly cast iron and glass. This architectural marvel was designed by Joseph Paxton, who utilized prefabricated cast iron elements that allowed for rapid assembly of a large, open interior space. The extensive use of glass in the building's structure not only provided natural lighting but also created a sense of transparency and connection to the surrounding landscape. This combination of cast iron and glass was groundbreaking at the time, as it revolutionized the architecture of public buildings and set a precedent for future construction methods. The choice of these materials exemplified the advancing industrial capabilities of the 19th century, showcasing a new aesthetic that embraced lightness and airy structures. Other options, while they represent common materials used in various architectural designs, do not reflect the specific innovations that made the Crystal Palace a landmark achievement in its field. The use of wood and brick, for instance, would not have facilitated the large spans and open spaces that characterized the Crystal Palace. Similarly, concrete and steel, though significant in later architectural developments, were not the primary materials employed in this instance, and the combination of plastic and aluminum was not relevant at the time of its construction.

9. What prominent political theme does "The Oath of the Horatii" address?

- A. The conflict of love and politics**
- B. The virtues of selfless patriotism**
- C. The struggles of everyday life**
- D. The decadence of the French aristocracy**

"The Oath of the Horatii" addresses the virtues of selfless patriotism, a central theme that resonates through both its narrative and visual components. The painting, created by Jacques-Louis David in 1784, portrays a poignant moment where the three Horatii brothers pledge to defend their city-state of Rome at the cost of their own lives and familial bonds. This act of allegiance over personal desire exemplifies the ideal of placing the welfare of the state above individual interests, emphasizing a sense of duty and sacrifice that aligns with the values of selfless patriotism. The dramatic composition, including the stark contrast of the brothers' determined expressions and the grief of the women in the background, reinforces the theme of loyalty to one's nation. This message was particularly resonant within the context of the political climate of the late 18th century, as it inspired revolutionary sentiments in a society on the verge of significant change. In contrast, other themes presented in the answer choices, such as the conflict of love and politics, while present in various artworks, do not capture the central focus of this piece, which is unwavering loyalty to one's country. Similarly, struggles of everyday life and the decadence of the French aristocracy are not the primary subjects depicted in this

10. What significant aspect of "Casa Mila" contributes to its organic form?

- A. Use of bright colors**
- B. Sculptural modeling of limestone**
- C. Symmetry in design**
- D. Classic straight lines**

The use of sculptural modeling of limestone is a significant aspect that contributes to the organic form of "Casa Mila," also known as La Pedrera, designed by Antoni Gaudí. This technique allows for fluid, undulating shapes that mimic natural forms, eschewing traditional straight lines and rigid structures. Gaudí's approach was inspired by the natural landscape, and the limestone's textural qualities enable the building to reflect the rhythms and forms of nature, enhancing its organic aesthetic. Unlike typical architecture that often adheres to geometric symmetry or straight lines, "Casa Mila" incorporates curved shapes and natural motifs, making it seem as if the building is a natural extension of the earth. This fluidity is crucial to its character, as it integrates seamlessly with its surroundings. The other choices, such as the use of bright colors or symmetry in design, do not encapsulate the essence of organic form as effectively. The focus here is on the material and form itself rather than color or traditional layout, which reinforces the distinction of "Casa Mila" as a unique architectural masterpiece.

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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