

Western Governors University (WGU) HUMN1010 C100 Introduction to Humanities Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. Which element can encompass various systems of ethics, values, and beliefs?
 - A. Art
 - B. Religion
 - C. Science
 - D. History
2. How do cultural practices influence human behavior?
 - A. They dictate government policies
 - B. They shape social norms, values, and expectations
 - C. They limit personal freedom and expression
 - D. They are always static and unchanging
3. What concept from Utilitarianism is still relevant in modern American environmental policies?
 - A. Protection of individual rights
 - B. Maximization of economic growth
 - C. The greatest good for the greatest number
 - D. Preservation of cultural heritage
4. What painting by Jacques-Louis David is known for inspiring French revolutionaries?
 - A. Death of Sardanapalus
 - B. The Oath of the Horatii
 - C. Liberty Leading the People
 - D. The Coronation of Napoleon
5. Which artistic element is most associated with the Renaissance style?
 - A. Monochrome palettes
 - B. Abstract forms
 - C. Realistic human figures and space
 - D. Emphasis on two-dimensional surfaces

6. What is a notable piece of classical music composed by Ludwig van Beethoven?
- A. Symphony No. 5
 - B. Symphony No. 9
 - C. Moonlight Sonata
 - D. Piano Concerto No. 5
7. What is the significance of the 'hero's journey' in storytelling?
- A. It represents a character's passive experience.
 - B. It is a narrative template depicting growth of a protagonist.
 - C. It always leads to a tragic ending.
 - D. It focuses on secondary characters.
8. What does 'humanism' emphasize?
- A. The value and agency of human beings
 - B. The importance of religious beliefs
 - C. The disdain for classical studies
 - D. The dominance of community over individuals
9. Which themes are commonly associated with the Romantic period?
- A. Exoticism, Nationalism, and Passion
 - B. Rationalism and Logic
 - C. Realism and Pragmatism
 - D. Industrialism and Modernism
10. Which poem is known for its exploration of the speaker's connection to humanity and nature?
- A. Song of Solomon
 - B. Leaves of Grass
 - C. The Waste Land
 - D. Paradise Lost

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which element can encompass various systems of ethics, values, and beliefs?

- A. Art
- B. Religion
- C. Science
- D. History

The choice of religion as the element that can encompass various systems of ethics, values, and beliefs is founded on the essential role that religion plays in shaping moral frameworks and guiding principles in many cultures. Religion often provides a comprehensive structure through which individuals and communities interpret their existence, define what is considered right or wrong, and establish values that govern behavior and societal norms. Religious teachings and texts frequently articulate ethical systems that are adhered to by followers, influencing both personal behavior and societal laws. In addition, different religions present diverse beliefs and practices that reflect varied understandings of the world, purpose, and morality. This multifaceted nature allows religion to serve as a basis for ethics and values across various societies. In contrast, while art, science, and history can certainly reflect and comment upon ethics and values, they do not inherently encompass systems of ethics in the same way that religion does. Art primarily provides expression and exploration of human experience, but it does not serve as a guiding moral framework. Science focuses on empirical observation and understanding the natural world, often remaining neutral in ethical matters. History records and examines human events and cultures, but it too does not intrinsically establish moral standards. Thus, religion stands out as the element that actively contains and conveys different systems of

2. How do cultural practices influence human behavior?

- A. They dictate government policies
- B. They shape social norms, values, and expectations
- C. They limit personal freedom and expression
- D. They are always static and unchanging

Cultural practices influence human behavior significantly by shaping social norms, values, and expectations within a community or society. These practices inform individuals about what is considered appropriate or acceptable behavior, guiding interpersonal interactions and societal roles. For example, culture may dictate how people celebrate certain holidays, interact with one another, or understand concepts such as respect and responsibility. This cultural framework affects decision-making, personal relationships, and even career choices, reflecting deeply held beliefs and collective identities. In contrast, while government policies may be influenced by cultural practices, they are not a direct representation of how those practices affect individual behavior. The notion that cultural practices limit personal freedom and expression doesn't take into account the positive influences of culture on identity and community belonging. Lastly, claiming that cultural practices are always static and unchanging overlooks the dynamic and evolving nature of culture, which adapts over time in response to various social, political, and economic factors.

3. What concept from Utilitarianism is still relevant in modern American environmental policies?

- A. Protection of individual rights
- B. Maximization of economic growth
- C. The greatest good for the greatest number
- D. Preservation of cultural heritage

The concept of "the greatest good for the greatest number" stems from the philosophy of Utilitarianism, which advocates for actions that promote the maximum happiness or well-being for the largest number of people. This idea is particularly relevant in modern American environmental policies, as many of these policies aim to balance the interests of the population, economic development, and environmental protection. By considering the impact of environmental decisions on the well-being of communities, policymakers often strive to create regulations and initiatives that benefit the majority, such as clean air and water initiatives or climate change mitigation strategies. Utilitarianism emphasizes collective welfare, which aligns with many contemporary debates and policies surrounding environmental issues like climate change, resource management, and public health. This focus on the broader impact on society illustrates the ongoing relevance of this philosophical approach in shaping effective and equitable environmental policies.

4. What painting by Jacques-Louis David is known for inspiring French revolutionaries?

- A. Death of Sardanapalus
- B. The Oath of the Horatii
- C. Liberty Leading the People
- D. The Coronation of Napoleon

The painting by Jacques-Louis David that inspired French revolutionaries is "The Oath of the Horatii." This neoclassical artwork, created in 1784, embodies themes central to the ideals of the French Revolution, such as sacrifice, duty, and patriotism. It features three brothers taking an oath to defend their city, symbolizing loyalty to the state over personal interests. This message resonated powerfully with revolutionaries who were fighting against tyranny and for national identity at the time. The focus on heroic sacrifice in "The Oath of the Horatii" and its depiction of moral fortitude directly appealed to revolutionary sentiments, which valued civic virtue and the greater good of society. The strong, dramatic poses and the stark contrasts in the painting also evoke a sense of urgency and valor, serving as a visual rallying cry for those engaged in the revolutionary struggle. The other options, while significant in their own right, do not directly inspire revolutionary themes in the same way. "Liberty Leading the People," by Eugène Delacroix, may also represent revolutionary ideals but was painted later, during the July Revolution of 1830. "The Coronation of Napoleon" depicts the power of the ruler rather than the revolutionary spirit, and "

5. Which artistic element is most associated with the Renaissance style?

- A. Monochrome palettes
- B. Abstract forms
- C. Realistic human figures and space
- D. Emphasis on two-dimensional surfaces

The Renaissance style is characterized by a strong emphasis on realism, particularly in the representation of human figures and spatial depth. Artists during this period sought to depict the human form with accuracy, applying principles of anatomy and proportion to create lifelike representations. This focus on realism was accompanied by a naturalistic approach to space and perspective, allowing the viewer to perceive depth and three-dimensionality in artworks. Techniques such as linear perspective revolutionized how space was depicted, contributing significantly to the overall sense of realism in Renaissance art. The other options reflect different artistic styles that do not encapsulate the core characteristics of the Renaissance. Monochrome palettes are more aligned with some modern and abstract movements rather than the vibrant colors typical of Renaissance works. Abstract forms often contrast with the realistic representation that defines the Renaissance, which was more concerned with lifelike depictions. An emphasis on two-dimensional surfaces does not resonate with the Renaissance's innovations in perspective and depth, which aimed to create a convincing illusion of three dimensions.

6. What is a notable piece of classical music composed by Ludwig van Beethoven?

- A. Symphony No. 5
- B. Symphony No. 9
- C. Moonlight Sonata
- D. Piano Concerto No. 5

Symphony No. 5 by Ludwig van Beethoven is indeed a notable piece of classical music, widely recognized for its distinct opening motif, "da-da-da-dum," which has become a symbol of classical music itself. Composed between 1804 and 1808, this symphony is celebrated for its emotional depth and innovative structure, marking a significant moment in the transition from the Classical to the Romantic era in music. Its themes of struggle and triumph resonate powerfully, making it a cornerstone of Western classical repertoire. While Beethoven's other works, such as Symphony No. 9, which features the "Ode to Joy," and the poignant "Moonlight Sonata," are also highly regarded, Symphony No. 5 stands out for its immediate recognizability and its impact on the symphonic form. It transformed how symphonies conveyed narrative and emotional content, making it a pivotal work in music history. The Piano Concerto No. 5, often referred to as the "Emperor Concerto," is also celebrated, but Symphony No. 5 is more universally acknowledged as a landmark piece.

7. What is the significance of the 'hero's journey' in storytelling?

- A. It represents a character's passive experience.
- B. It is a narrative template depicting growth of a protagonist.
- C. It always leads to a tragic ending.
- D. It focuses on secondary characters.

The significance of the 'hero's journey' in storytelling lies in its depiction of the growth and transformation of the protagonist. This narrative template, widely popularized by Joseph Campbell, outlines a clear arc where the hero faces challenges, overcomes obstacles, and ultimately evolves as a person through their experiences. The journey typically involves stages such as the call to adventure, facing trials, receiving help from mentors, and returning transformed, all of which underscore the themes of resilience, self-discovery, and the quest for identity. This framework resonates with audiences because it mirrors real-life experiences of growth and change, allowing for a deeper emotional connection with the protagonist. While other options may offer unrelated interpretations—such as passive experiences or focusing on secondary characters—the essence of the 'hero's journey' is firmly rooted in the active and dynamic process of personal transformation that defines the hero.

8. What does 'humanism' emphasize?

- A. The value and agency of human beings
- B. The importance of religious beliefs
- C. The disdain for classical studies
- D. The dominance of community over individuals

Humanism emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, focusing on human potential and achievements. This philosophical stance prioritizes human interests and experiences rather than the divine or supernatural elements that have historically dominated much of Western thought. Humanists advocate for critical thinking and evidence-based reasoning, underscoring the importance of human experience and rationality in understanding the world. In contrast, the other options involve perspectives that do not align with humanism. While B stresses the importance of religious beliefs, humanism typically advocates for secularism and prioritizes human reasoning over faith. C refers to a negative view of classical studies, whereas humanism actually values and seeks to revive these classical ideas and texts. Finally, D suggests a focus on the community at the expense of individual autonomy, which is contrary to humanism's emphasis on individual potential and self-expression. Thus, A accurately represents the core conception of humanism.

9. Which themes are commonly associated with the Romantic period?

A. Exoticism, Nationalism, and Passion

B. Rationalism and Logic

C. Realism and Pragmatism

D. Industrialism and Modernism

The Romantic period, which roughly spans the late 18th to the mid-19th century, is characterized by a profound focus on emotion, nature, and the individual experience. The themes of exoticism, nationalism, and passion are central to this literary and artistic movement. Exoticism reflects a fascination with distant lands and cultures, often exploring themes that go beyond the familiar and the mundane. Nationalism emerged during this period as artists and writers sought to express their national identity and heritage, often celebrating folklore, history, and landscapes unique to their countries. Passion symbolizes the Romantic emphasis on deep emotional experiences and the human connection to nature and the sublime. This period valued intuition and feeling over the rational thought that dominated the preceding Enlightenment era. In contrast, the other options reflect themes that do not align with the Romantic ethos. Rationalism and logic were hallmarks of the Enlightenment, focusing on reason as the primary source of knowledge. Realism and pragmatism developed later as reactions to Romanticism, emphasizing everyday life and practicality over the idealized emotions and nature often portrayed in Romantic works. Similarly, industrialism and modernism began to emerge in the late 19th century, focusing on progress and the implications of industrialization, which diver

10. Which poem is known for its exploration of the speaker's connection to humanity and nature?

A. Song of Solomon

B. Leaves of Grass

C. The Waste Land

D. Paradise Lost

The poem renowned for its exploration of the speaker's connection to humanity and nature is "Leaves of Grass" by Walt Whitman. This work is a seminal collection that celebrates individualism and the intrinsic link between humans and the natural world. Whitman's use of free verse and vivid imagery invites readers to reflect on the beauty of the human experience while simultaneously highlighting the interconnectedness with the larger universe. In "Leaves of Grass," Whitman emphasizes themes of democracy, equality, and the importance of nature in shaping human identity. His lyrical style evokes a sense of unity among all living things and encourages readers to embrace their experiences and the world around them. This deep philosophical inquiry into the self and its relationship with nature positions the poem as a fundamental piece in understanding the human condition and our place within the natural order.