

2019 AP[®] ART HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

4. The works shown are the David Vases, created in China in 1351 C.E.

Describe at least two aspects of the original historical and/or religious context of the David Vases.

Using specific evidence, explain how the original context influenced the choice of both the materials and the imagery of the David Vases.

Using specific contextual evidence, explain how the David Vases exemplify cross-cultural interaction.

2019 AP[®] ART HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS



© The Trustees of the British Museum / Art Resource, NY

© 2019 The College Board.
Visit the College Board on the web: collegeboard.org.

2019 AP[®] ART HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

5. Correctly attribute the work shown to the contemporary artist who created it.

Using specific visual evidence, justify your attribution by describing at least two relevant similarities between the work shown and other work by the same artist.

Using at least two examples of specific evidence, explain the commentary that the artist was making on the cultural context in which the artist was working.



© Archivart / Alamy Stock Photo

AP[®] ART HISTORY
2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

The works shown are the David Vases, created in China in 1351 C.E.

Describe at least two aspects of the original historical and/or religious context of the David Vases.

Using specific evidence, explain how the original context influenced the choice of both the materials and the imagery of the David Vases.

Using specific contextual evidence, explain how the David Vases exemplify cross-cultural interaction.

Scoring Criteria

Task		Points
1	Accurately describes ONE aspect of the historical OR religious context of the David Vases.	1 point
2	Accurately describes ANOTHER aspect of the historical OR religious context of the David Vases.	1 point
3	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the original context influenced the choice of the materials of the David Vases.	1 point
4	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the original context influenced the choice of the imagery of the David Vases.	1 point
5	Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how the David Vases exemplify cross-cultural interaction.	1 point
Total Possible Score		5 points

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4 (continued)

Scoring Notes

1	Accurately describes ONE aspect of the historical OR religious context of the David Vases. - The works were created during a time of stability under the Mongol Empire, which promoted trade along the Silk Road. - The works were made when China was under the rule of the Mongols, during the Yuan dynasty. - The works were conceived as an offering/dedication to be placed in a Chinese Daoist temple (in Xingyuan) Note: Buddhist temple according to Gardner’s 15th edition. - In China at the time, there was an intermixing of religious practices including Daoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. - The works were commissioned by a wealthy Chinese patron, Zhang Wenjin. An inscription around the necks of the vases includes information about the patron and a dedication of the vases (together with a now missing incense burner) to the temple in the hope to receive protection and blessing of the patron’s family. - Also among the inscriptions are references to a general recently deified as a god to whom the altar set is offered in exchange for this new god’s protection. - The works were made in southern China (Jingdezhen/Jiangxi), the center of Chinese porcelain production. - Vases like these were created to appeal to a variety of consumers in different markets; many were exported. - The shapes of the vases were modeled after ritual bronzes that could also be used as temple offerings.
2	Accurately describes ANOTHER aspect of the historical OR religious context of the David Vases. See above.
3	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the original context influenced the choice of the materials of the David Vases. - The works are made of porcelain, a type of high-fired ceramic with special properties (being hard, white, with a translucent appearance) developed in China. Porcelain production was an established artistic tradition within China and Chinese porcelain a popular export good by the time the David Vases were created. Cobalt, the mineral used to create the blue pigment in blue-and-white porcelain like the David Vases, was imported to China from present-day Iran. - Chinese blue-and-white porcelain was developed during the Yuan dynasty as a result of the connection of China with markets in the Middle East. Precious materials, such as the porcelain and the cobalt blue underglaze make this a status object that represented the wealth of the patron. - The use of cobalt to create the coloring was also found in Middle Eastern ceramic traditions; Chinese blue-and-white porcelain appealed to the demands created by Middle Eastern markets.

AP[®] ART HISTORY
2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4 (continued)

4	Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how the original context influenced the choice of the imagery of the David Vases. • The vases are decorated with animals including dragons and phoenixes, which are auspicious and complementary symbols (the yin and the yang), commonly found on Chinese ceremonial and imperial objects. • Trade with India influenced the elephant head handles. • Religious contextual imagery correlates elephants in Buddhist art to a symbol of strength. • Dragon and phoenix communicate power in Chinese culture, and would have reinforced the patron's status, as well as invoked prosperity. • Vine and floral motifs were inspired by Islamic or Iznik ceramics, here depicted in new forms such as plantain leaves and traditional Chinese flowers such as peonies.
5	Accurately uses specific contextual evidence to explain how the David Vases exemplify cross-cultural interaction. • Combined elements of cobalt blue from the Middle East with porcelain found in China create the distinctive blue-and-white wares that are only possible with trade along the Silk Road. • With expansion of the Mongol empire, artists in China added exotic animals including the elephant into their design choices along with traditional Chinese creatures. • Blending of Middle Eastern cobalt blue pigments and motifs with Chinese sacred symbols demonstrate the influence of secular trade on religious objects through the Silk Road and Mongol Empire. • The connections of the Chinese blue-and-white porcelain in Middle Eastern markets and its later global appeal (such as the stylistic and technical influence in 17th century delftware) shows the cross-cultural connections of Chinese porcelain production. • The purchase of the vases as part of an extensive collection of Chinese ceramics in the 20th century by European collector Sir Percival David exhibits the continued global appeal of Chinese blue-and-white porcelain from this time.