

## SAMPLE EXAM

### The New York City Commencement Examination in Visual Arts \*

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

ID/OSIS Number \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION	MAXIMUM POINTS	SCORE	INITIALS A	INITIALS B
I. <u>Art Concepts</u> : Design, Materials and Techniques Cultural and Historical Connections	30			
II. <u>Essay</u> : Analysis and Interpretation	15			
III. <u>Performance Applications</u> : A. Two-Dimensional Applied Design	10			
B. Drawing from Observation	15			
IV. <u>Portfolio</u> : Area of Specialization: A. Presentation of Artwork **	20			
B. Reflective Essay **	10			
TOTAL	100			

\* (as per Part 100 of the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education)

\*\* These sections are due prior to the examination and graded at the school. NEW AS OF JUNE 2015, all other components are graded centrally, and NOT at the school.

# The New York City Comprehensive Examination in Visual Arts

(as per Part 100 of the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education)

## PART I – Art Concepts: Design, Materials and Techniques, Cultural and Historical Connections

NOTE: This **sample exam** contains **34** multiple choice questions.  
The **actual exam** contains **60** (½ point) multiple choice questions.

Directions: Read each question carefully and select the **best** answer.  
Indicate the letter of your choice on the attached answer sheet.  
**Note:** There is an answer key for multiple choice questions at the end of this sample exam.

Answer all questions. Each question is worth ½ point.

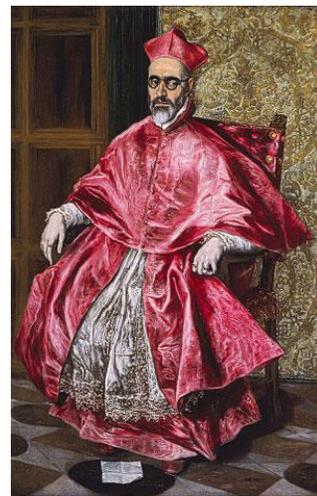
Select the best answer for each question:



Roman wall painting, 50-40 B.C.  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, N.Y.C.

- This fresco was created by applying
  - oil paint over gesso
  - pigment to wet plaster
  - casein to burnished parchment
  - egg tempera over wood
- The architectural elements refer to styles from
  - Mesopotamia
  - Egypt
  - Greece
  - Babylonia
- Balance in this composition is
  - proportional
  - asymmetrical
  - radial
  - symmetrical

Select the best answer for each question:



El Greco, *Portrait of a Cardinal*, ca. 1600  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, N.Y.C.

- This portrait was most likely commissioned to illustrate
  - power and influence
  - religious apparel
  - a trade or occupation
  - ancestral lineage
- The painter attracts the viewer's attention by using
  - symbolic objects
  - warm colors
  - reflected light
  - modeled forms

Select the best answer for each question:



Pieter de Hooch, *Courtyard of a House in Delft*, 1658  
The National Gallery, London

6. Dutch paintings of everyday life are known as
- genre
  - stylized
  - eclectic
  - classic
7. The perception of space is created by using
- multiple sightlines
  - one-point perspective
  - soft edges
  - high contrast
8. The artist depicts Dutch life by focusing on
- commercial themes
  - residential structures
  - domestic scenes
  - economic status

Select the best answer for each question:



Jacques-Louis David, *Death of Marat*, 1793  
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium

9. In this painting David evokes an emotional response through the use of
- sfumato
  - monochromatic color
  - contrapposto
  - dramatic lighting
10. This Neoclassic painting was a departure from the ornate style known as
- Byzantine
  - Impressionism
  - Baroque
  - Gothic

Select the best answer for each question:



Pierre-Auguste Renoir  
*Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette* (detail), 1876  
Musée d'Orsay, Paris

11. The illusion of depth is created by
- a. overlapping figures
  - b. dramatic foreshortening
  - c. strong silhouettes
  - d. direct lighting
12. The Impressionists captured a “fleeting moment” by using
- a. short brushstrokes
  - b. precise rendering
  - c. restrained shadows
  - d. subtle blending
13. Unpainted areas of an oil painting are most likely to reveal
- a. glue
  - b. linen
  - c. masonite
  - d. gesso

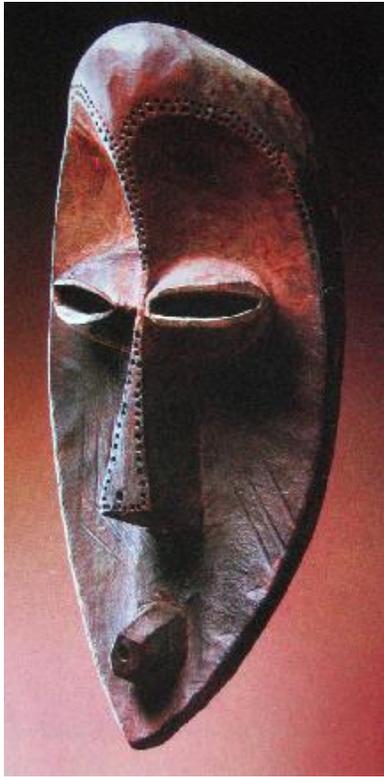
Select the best answer for each question:



John Singer Sargent, *On the Zattere*, 1905  
Private Collection

14. Because of the transparent quality of watercolor, artists must layer paint from
- a. wet to dry
  - b. bright to dull
  - c. light to dark
  - d. opaque to thin
15. The blurred areas of the buildings were created using the technique of
- a. wet on wet
  - b. flat wash
  - c. dry brush
  - d. blocking out

Select the best answer for each question:



Mask, Itumba Region, Zaire, 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Private Collection

16. African masks are primarily worn during

- a. family gatherings
- b. military tributes
- c. athletic competitions
- d. tribal ceremonies

17. The element of African masks that influenced Pablo Picasso and Amedeo Modigliani was

- a. simulated textures
- b. earth tones
- c. organic shapes
- d. simplified forms

Select the best answer for each question:



Juan Gris, *Portrait of the Artist's Mother*, 1912  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, N.Y.C

18. Cubism introduced

- a. modeled surfaces
- b. bold forms
- c. multiple views
- d. contrasting values

19. The visual device used by Gris was

- a. spatial ambiguity
- b. flattened planes
- c. solid masses
- d. complementary colors

Select the best answer for each question:



Käthe Kollwitz, *Self-Portrait*, 1933  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

20. The manner used to draw the extended arm expresses

- a. restraint
- b. spontaneity
- c. fragility
- d. permanence

21. Spraying fixative on a charcoal drawing such as the work above

- a. prevents smudging
- b. diminishes fading
- c. decreases contrast
- d. enhances highlights

22. The most appropriate paper for drawing with this medium is

- a. smooth
- b. coarse
- c. vellum
- d. tracing

Select the best answer for each question:



René Magritte, *Les Valeurs Personnelles*, 1952  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

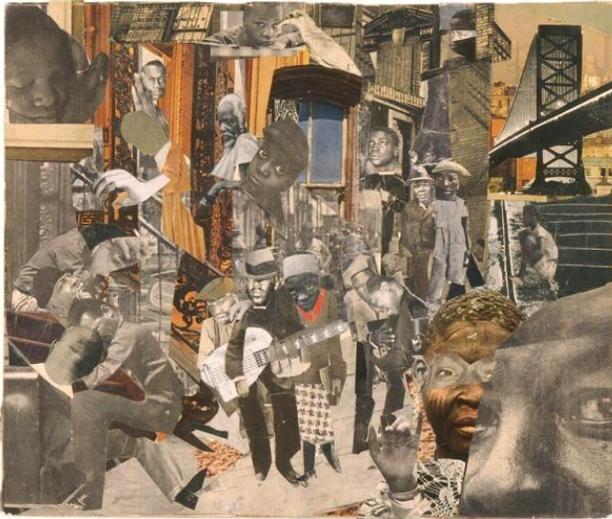
23. Magritte challenges the viewers' expectation of

- a. value
- b. scale
- c. form
- d. space

24. Surrealism was inspired by

- a. literature
- b. theatrical settings
- c. dreams
- d. mass production

Select the best answer for each question:

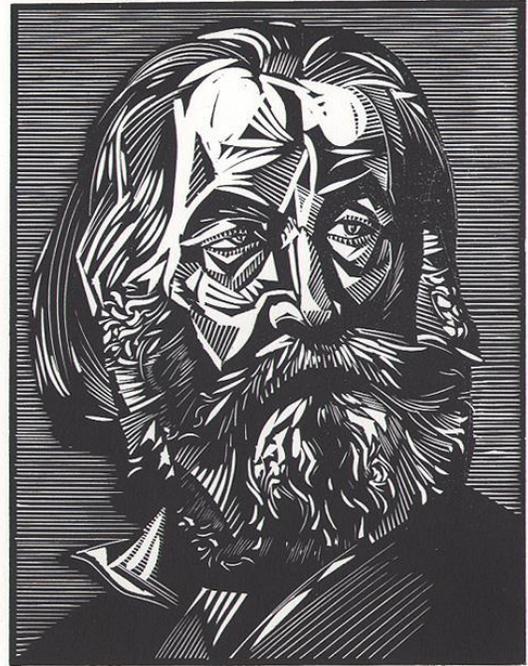


Romare Bearden, *The Street*, 1964  
Milwaukee Art Museum

25. The component that makes this a collage is the
- a. layering of photographic images
  - b. placement of geometric shapes
  - c. use of monochromatic color
  - d. incorporation of architectural elements

26. Bearden's artwork was greatly influenced by
- a. community life
  - b. world events
  - c. conceptual art
  - d. literary symbolism

Select the best answer for each question:



Stephen Alcorn, *Walt Whitman*, 1982  
Private Collection

27. In this relief print, white areas are caused by
- a. using a stencil
  - b. applying white ink
  - c. cutting into the plate
  - d. masking with resist

28. The tool used to create this image is a
- a. gouge
  - b. file
  - c. palette knife
  - d. sharp needle

29. The printmaking plate used in this process is
- a. zinc
  - b. copper
  - c. stone
  - d. linoleum

Select the best answer for each question:



Website, 2015  
NYCDOE, Office of Arts & Special Projects

30. A effective website is characterized by its

- a. dependency on text
- b. integration of audio
- c. colorful animation
- d. ease of navigation

31. When an image is enlarged on a computer the element that becomes more evident is the

- a. pixels
- b. text
- c. serifs
- d. details

Select the best answer for each question:



Kehinde Wiley, 2005  
*The Equestrian Portrait of the Duke of Lerma*  
Brooklyn Museum

32. The artist reinterprets historic equestrian portraits by

- a. incorporating religious symbols
- b. referencing floral motifs
- c. framing the image in gold
- d. including contemporary attire

33. Wiley creates an image of grandeur and power through his

- a. choice of viewpoint
- b. emphasis on ceremonial objects
- c. placement of horizon line
- d. use of ornate patterns

34. As an urban artist, he questions our perception of

- a. corporate advertising
- b. spiritual beliefs
- c. social status
- d. competitive sports

## PART II – Essay Analysis and Interpretation (15 Points)

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*“Nothing in a portrait is a matter of indifference.  
Gesture, grimace, clothing, decor...  
all must combine to realize a character.”*

**Charles Baudelaire**

Artists use portraiture to express personal and public perceptions using elements of art, principles of design, and visual references to depict their subjects.

After studying the artworks on the opposite page, write a well organized essay of approximately 350 words discussing the

- artist as interpreter
- use of color, medium and technique
- influence of other artists or art movements

In your essay refer to at least two of the given reproductions.

**NOTE:** In addition to responding to the above criteria, your composition will be judged on the use of English language arts conventions.

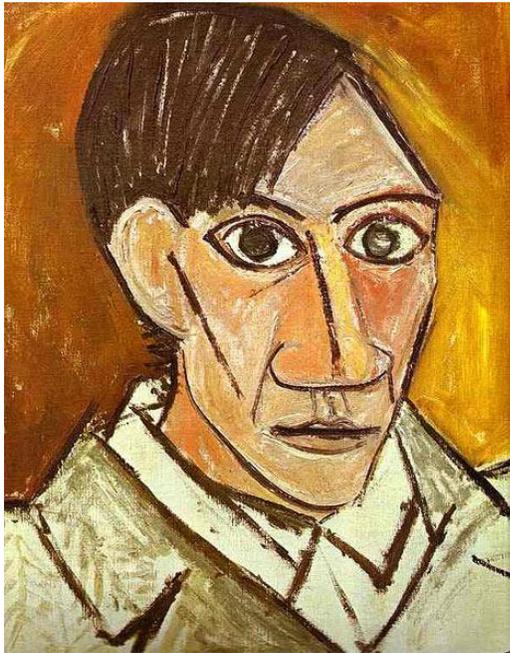
Write your response in the Essay Answer Booklet.



Annie Liebovitz  
*Nicole Kidman, 2003*  
Photograph



Jacob Lawrence  
*Self-Portrait, 1977*  
Gouache on paper



Pablo Picasso  
*Self-Portrait, 1907*  
Oil on canvas



Andy Warhol  
*Marilyn Monroe (Marilyn), 1967*  
Screenprint

**End of Part II**

## PART III – Performance Applications

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### A. Two-Dimensional Applied Design (10 Points)

Design a poster for a school event based on one of the following:

- Spring Jazz Festival
- Three One-Act Plays
- An Evening of Dance

Directions:

- use a color medium such as color pencils or markers
- include the selected title and your school name
- work on 9” x 12” drawing paper

Your design will be judged on:

- originality of concept
- integration of text and image
- awareness of intended audience
- use of the selected medium
- treatment of selected title and school name

**End of Part III A**

## PART III – Performance Applications

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### **B. Drawing from Observation** (15 Points)

Draw a section of the room that includes at least three objects.

Directions:

- use a black and white medium such as pencil or conte crayon
- work on 9” x12” drawing paper

Your drawing will be judged on your ability to:

- create the illusion of depth
- use value to illustrate form
- develop a balanced composition

**End of Part III B**

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## PART IV – Portfolio: Area of Specialization

### **A. Presentation of Artwork** \* (20 Points)

### **B. Reflective Essay** \* (10 Points)

\* These sections were due prior to the examination

**-END OF EXAMINATION-**

**New York City Department of Education  
SAMPLE Commencement Art Examination**

**ANSWER KEY**

**Multiple choice questions are worth ½ point each.**

**This sample exam contains 34 multiple choice questions.**

**The actual exam has 60 multiple choice questions.**

**Some questions may appear to have more than one response.  
Students are directed to select the best answer from the possible choices.**

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1. B
  2. C
  3. D
  4. A
  5. C
  6. A
  7. B
  8. C
  9. D
  10. C
  11. A
  12. A
  13. D
  14. C
  15. A
  16. D
  17. C

18. C
19. A
20. B
21. A
22. B
23. B
24. C
25. A
26. A
27. C
28. A
29. D
30. D
31. A
32. D
33. A
34. C