

State Exam Questions 2024-2025

Visual Arts

1. **a)** Ancient Egypt – description of the culture, most important works of art, characteristic ways of depicting
b) The role of art – what is art, its purpose in history, relation to religion, understanding art today and in various historical periods

2. **a)** Mesopotamia and Mediterranean area – description of the culture, most important works of art, characteristic ways of depicting
b) Action Art, Body Art, Performance – description of the phenomenon and their differences, examples of works and artists, social and historical backgrounds

3. **a)** Early Empires of Central and South America – description of the most important cultures, characteristic works of art, characteristic ways of depicting
b) Colonialism and cultural specifics in art – different understandings of art in different cultures, different purposes and hierarchies of art forms, traditional narrative of history of art of the “white man”

4. **a)** Art of the Far East – description of the cultures, characteristic works of art, characteristic ways of depicting
b) Dada and Surrealism – characteristics of the styles, political intention of Dada, the Zurich group, main surrealists, influences

5. **a)** Ancient Greece – description of the culture, most important works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, beauty standards, different phases of Greek culture, architecture of temples and cities (that will influence urbanism for centuries)
b) Art and beauty in Ancient Greek philosophy – most important philosophers and their concepts dealing with art and beauty, ethical aspects, beauty in numbers and practical guidelines for artists

6.
 - a) Ancient Rome – description of the culture, most important works of art, relation to Greek culture, important technical innovations (e.g. in architecture), purpose of art, different phases and areas of cultural influence, building cities
 - b) Art as a political tool – political purpose of art in history, examples of such works, propaganda and manipulation in art

7.
 - a) Early Christian and Byzantine Art – description of the culture and the period, most important works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, pagan and Christian symbols
 - b) The role and status of the artist in different historical periods and cultures – cult of the artist today vs. history, main characteristics, education and change of status within society

8.
 - a) Ottonian and Carolingian Renaissance and Romanesque Art – description of the styles and the period, most important works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, Christian iconography, “Bible of the poor”
 - b) Psychology of pictorial representation and E.H. Gombrowicz – Gombrowicz’s most important concepts and works, principles of imitation, role of tradition etc.

9.
 - a) Gothic Art – description of the style and the period, most important works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, main innovations in architecture, iconography and symbols
 - b) Feminism and gender – most important texts and authors, description of the phenomenon and its consequences, question of feminine art

10.
 - a) Renaissance in Italy – description of the style and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, most important innovations and discoveries, “beginning of the modern age”, Mannerism
 - b) Psychoanalysis and representation of women in art – depiction of women in various historical periods, their social status and its connotations, psychoanalysis and its reflection in feminist texts

11.
 - a) Renaissance in Europe – description of the style and the period, differences in comparison with Italy, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, important inventions (e.g. printing press)
 - b) Looking at art today and through historical lens, J. Berger – problematic issues of the way we see art today (knowledge of historical background, change of context, politics of art, commercialization etc.), John Berger and his Ways of Seeing

12.
 - a) Baroque Painting and Sculpture – description of the style and the period, purpose of art, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, importance of theatre and its principles in Baroque art
 - b) Structuralism and semiotics in art theory – the main figures and their thoughts, reflections in 20th century thinking, followers and opposition

13.
 - a) Baroque Architecture, Rococo Art – description of the styles and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting and art techniques, first “global” style
 - b) The age of mechanical reproduction of art and W. Benjamin – The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction and its influence, reproductions vs. “the real thing”, Museum without Walls

14.
 - a) Neoclassicism and Empire Style – description of the styles and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions
 - b) Advertising as the visual language of today, R. Barthes – visual codes and principles used in advertising, their origin in art and history, their theoretical reflections, Mythologies of R. Barthes

15.
 - a) Romanticism and Realism – description of the styles and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions
 - b) Veracity of photography - indexicality and visual accuracy of photography, truth claim of photography, why do we believe the photographs, main figures of theoretical reflection

16. **a)** Impressionism – description of the style and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions, scientific explorations of light
- b)** Photography vs. painting – invention of photography and its influence and effect on painting, redefining the mimetic purpose of art, correction of visual concepts, E. Muybridge
17. **a)** Post-impressionism – description of the style and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions
- b)** Land Art and Conceptualism – description of the art forms and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic concepts, influences and reactions
18. **a)** Art Nouveau and Symbolism – description of the styles and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions
- b)** Rediscovering women artists in history – theoretical background and social changes of this “search”, examples of rediscovered women artists, what they had in common or what made them different, different style vs. men artists?
19. **a)** Fauvism, Cubism and Futurism – description of the styles and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions, phases of Cubism
- b)** Representation of the visible vs. abstract art – the mimetic function of art, various ways of depicting, various perspectives and their function, conditions for development of abstract art, main figures
20. **a)** Pop Art – description of the style and the period, most important artists and works of art, characteristic ways of depicting, influences and reactions, importance of the medium
- b)** High and low in art – hierarchy of genres, forming of artistic institutions and the market, industrial revolution, modern protests against capitalism and consumerism and challenging the status quo