

# The Renaissance

1<sup>st</sup> Year History

# What does renaissance mean?

○ Renaissance = Rebirth

○ 1350, Northern Italy:

○ Artists and scholars became interested again in the art, architecture and writings of ancient Rome and Greece.

○ These old writings and art sparked within them a renewed creativity, new ideas and a new way of looking at the world .

# Why did the Renaissance start in Italy?

○ *Italy had buildings and ruins* from the ancient civilisations and empire.

- The Forum
- The Colosseum

◻ *This inspired artists and scholars* to look into their past and rebuild the city to its former glory!

○ In 1453, the Turks captured the city of Constantinople from the Greeks. *Many Greeks fled Constantinople settling in Italy.* With them they brought many ancient manuscripts. This revived an interest in the Ancient Arts.

O At the time, Italy was not a united country. It was made up of wealthy independent city states.

- Venice
- Florence
- Milan
  - i. These *states were ruled by rich princes and merchants*. This made Italy a very rich place.
  - ii. *These noble and rich people paid architects and artists for beautiful works of art*. These people were called **patrons**.

○ So many artists could *practice and refine their skills* full time thanks to these patrons. This lead to many masters of art and architecture.

○ During the Middle Ages Italy was the *crossroads of the world*.

- i. It was *the main trading centre for Europe*:
- ii. Spices and silks from India and China were brought into Italy's wealthy ports for trading.
- iii. It was a place for people of all different cultures and ethnicities to meet **?** *new idea and attitudes about the world developed here*.

## O *The Medici family*, Florence (North Italy):

- i. The most powerful patrons of the Renaissance.
- ii. *Lorenzo De Medici* the most powerful of all ?  
*encouraged and paid artists to work in the city.*
- iii. Sponsored many important works of the day that have lasted as masterpieces today..

# Renaissance Painting

○ More lifelike

○ New developments:

## 1. Anatomy

○ Artists began to dissect and study the human body to make paintings more accurate.

## 2. Perspective:

○ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS12p0Zqlt0>

○ Artists began to paint objects in the background smaller and the objects to the front on a larger scale.

○ This gave depth, a sense of space and realness to the picture, called perspective.

## 3. Portraits:

○ Portraits of people became very fashionable

## 4. Sfumato:

○ Tiny brush strokes used to blend edges and lines. There were no hard lines.  
Used to paint shadows and skin tones.

## 5. Oil Paintings:

○ Medieval artists mixed colours with egg white, which was very quick drying. The renaissance artists used linseed oil to mix colours **?** takes longer to dry. More time for detail!

## 6. Canvas:

○ Renaissance artists used canvas instead of wooden boards **?** paint dried slower= less likely to crack.

## 7. Frescos:

○ Paintings done onto fresh wet plaster.

○ Decorative **?** Walls and ceilings

# The Virgin on the Rocks

- 1. Sfumato
- 2. Perspective
- 3. Anatomy
- 4. Portrait



# *The Arnolfini Marriage*

Is this a renaissance  
painting?



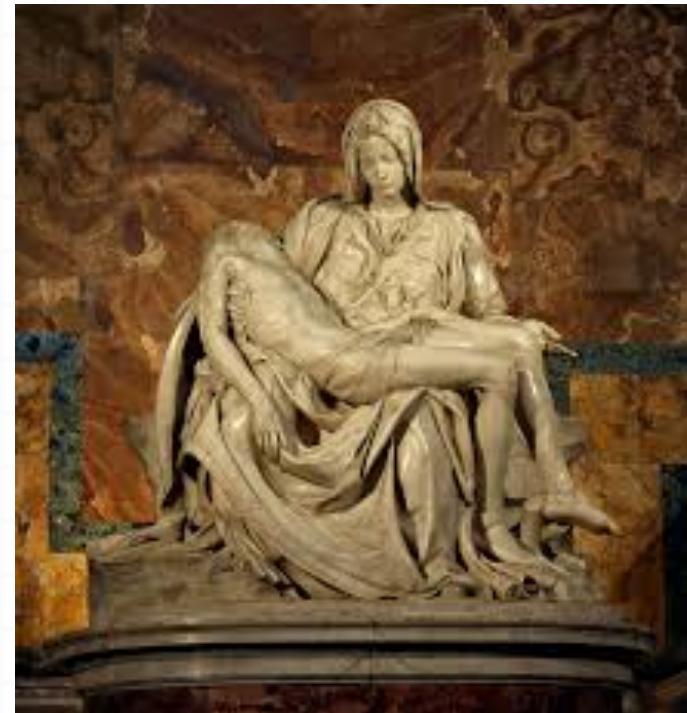
# Renaissance artists outside of Italy

- The Netherlands became a centre of art during the Renaissance.
- Jan Van Eyck – one of the first greatest artists of the Northern European Renaissance.
- The use of perspective wasn't as good as Italian renaissance artists, his in depth detail made his paintings stand out.
- One of the first artists to use oil rather than egg to bind his paint.
- The *Arnolfini Marriage (1434)*.
- The reflection in the mirror is thought to be a self portrait.
- Words above the mirror  ‘Jan Van Eyck was present’

# Renaissance Sculpture and Architecture

- Sculptural developments
- A famous renaissance sculptor
- Architectural developments

# Two sculptures...



# Sculptural developments

## Middle Ages Sculptures

- *Not lifelike (no realistic anatomy)*
- *Part of buildings (usually churches)*
- *Religious functions*

## Renaissance Sculptures

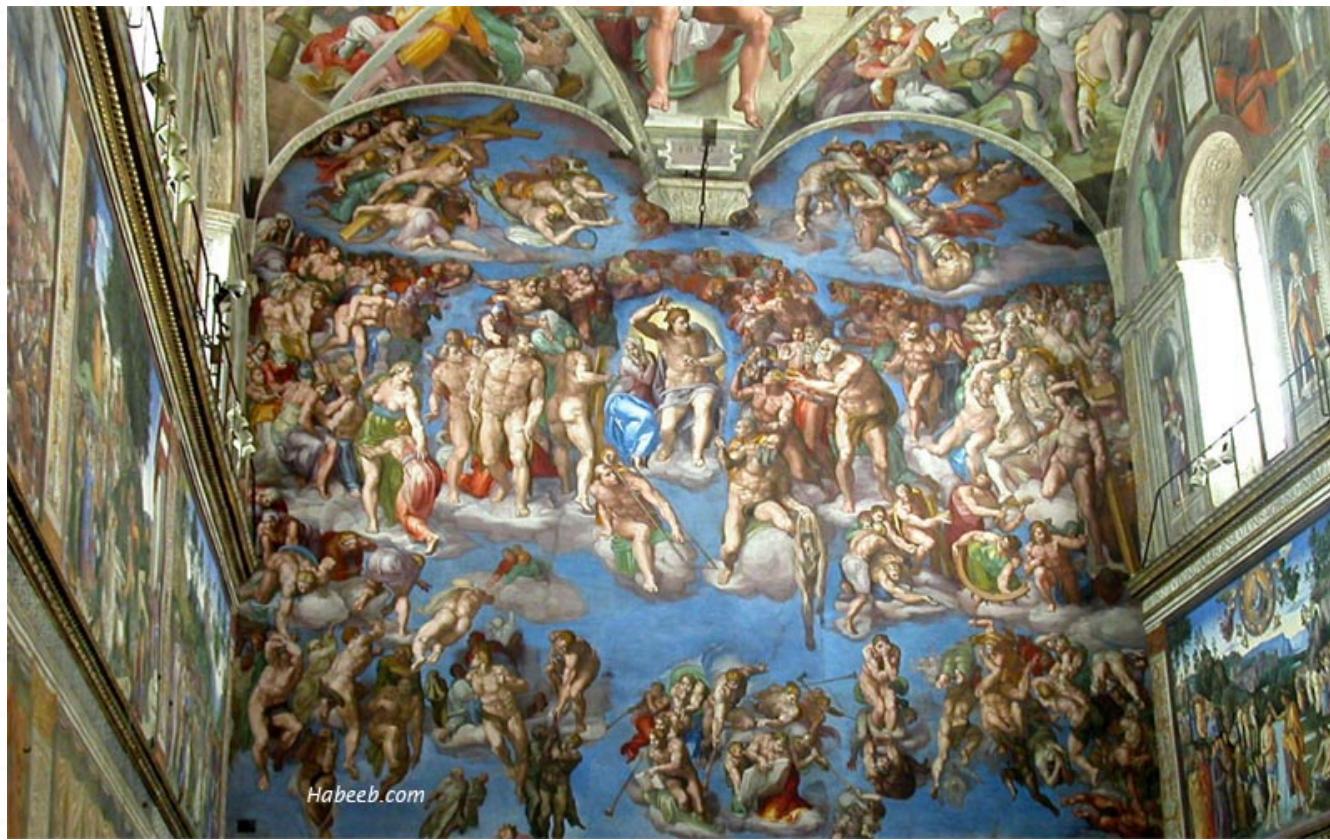
- *Copied to a point from the Old Greek and Roman statues.*
- *These were stand-alone statues.*
- *Carved to show how the human body really was.*
- *Often nude.*
- *Display bones and muscles.*

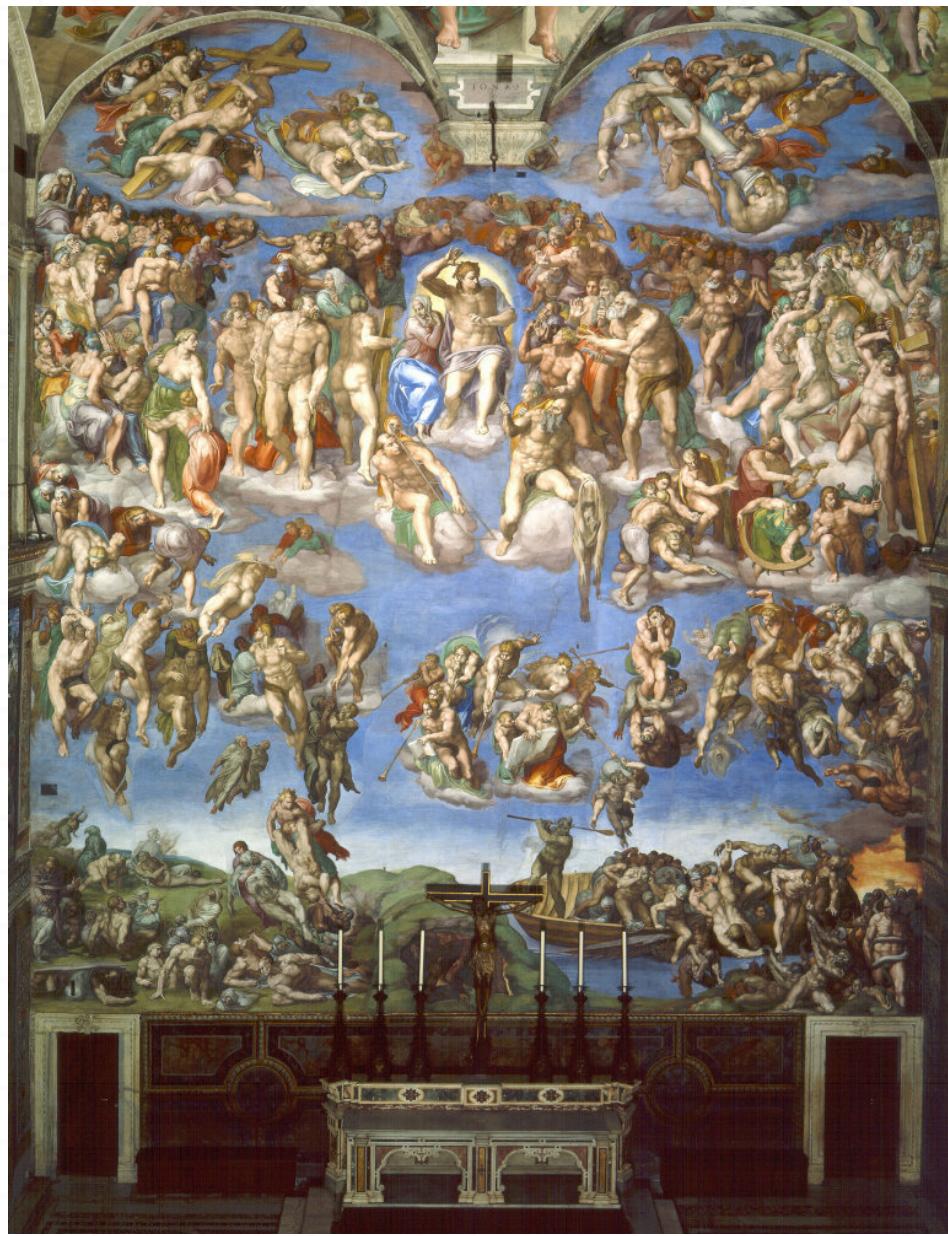
# A famous sculptor: Michelangelo Buonarrotti

- Raised in Florence
- Worked for Lorenzo de Medici (treated as one of the family!  
Lived in their palace)
- Trained as a painter and sculptor but preferred sculpting.
- Moved to Rome [?] Produced *La Pieta*, carved out of white marble (can be seen today in St. Peter's Basilica)
- 1501: returned to Florence [?] Produced giant *David* from a single block of marble (very detailed statue that shows his muscles and anatomy realistically). *David* shows that Michelangelo clearly studied anatomy.

- 1505: returned to Rome **?** Pope Julius II commissioned him to paint ceiling of Sistine Chapel.
- Daunting task for him.
- Fresco **?** took 4 years to finish. Painted lying on his back on top of a scaffolding.
- Started in the centre (painted God creating Adam, covered the rest with scenes from the Bible).
- Worked alone, no one could see the project until the very end, except for the Pope.
- Painting of *The Last Judgement* behind the altar in the Chapel.

# Sistine Chapel





# What has the Renaissance done for us?

New Skills/  
Discoveries

Invention of printing

Confidence grew

People started to  
question the Church

# What has the Renaissance done for us?

New Skills/ Discoveries	Invention of printing	Confidence grew	People started to question the Church
<i>Art: Sfumato, perspective, humanism</i>	<i>Made books cheaper and readily available to the common people</i>	<i>Individual thinking.</i>	<i>People challenged Church's stance on things/ their power</i>
<i>Medicine: Anatomy, Circulatory system</i>	<i>Encouraged more people to read and then to write</i>	<i>Challenging old ideas.</i>	<i>Renaissance thinking and challenging ideas led to the Reformation</i>
<i>Science: The earth moves around the sun The telescope</i>	<i>Ideas could spread quickly about medicine and science</i>		

# Document: JC 2013

## ***PICTURE B.***

### **(b) PICTURE B**

*Picture B is a portrait of the Duke of Urbino, patron of Renaissance artist Piero Della Francesca.*

- (i) Apart from the Duke of Urbino, mention **one** important Renaissance patron.

..... (1)

- (ii) Give **two** pieces of evidence to show that picture B is a Renaissance painting.

.....

.....

..... (2)

- (iii) What evidence is there in picture B to support the view that the Duke of Urbino was a wealthy man?

.....

.....(2)



Source : [www.art.com](http://www.art.com)

# The marking scheme...



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
State Examinations Commission

**Junior Certificate 2013**

**Marking Scheme**

**History**

- (b) Picture B: **Duke of Urbino, Renaissance patron**
- (i) (Cosimo) de Medici/ (Lorenzo) de Medici/ (Ludovico) Sforza/ (Pope) Julius/ (Pope) Leo etc.  
Any **ONE** valid patron 1M
- (ii) Use of perspective/ Use of rich colours/ Lifelike detail such as flaws on skin and individual locks of hair/ Nature scene in the background, etc.  
Any **TWO** valid characteristics  $1 + 1 = 2M$
- (iii) High-quality material in his garments/ Well shaven and groomed/ His hat suggests a certain status/ He could afford to commission a picture of himself/ He towers over the landscape.  
**ONE** piece of evidence 2M

# Classwork: Document JC 2011

*PICTURE B.*



(b)

## **PICTURE B**

*Picture B shows The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp, an oil painting by Rembrandt.*

- (i) Why were examinations of dead bodies such as that shown in picture B not very common before the Renaissance?

.....  
.....(1)

- (ii) Why did Renaissance artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci study anatomy?

.....  
.....(2)

- (iii) Name **two** Renaissance discoveries that increased scientific knowledge.

.....  
.....(2)

# The marking scheme: Correct in class!



Coimisiún na Scrúdúithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission

## JUNIOR CERTIFICATE 2011

### MARKING SCHEME

### HISTORY

### HIGHER LEVEL

- (b) Picture B: *The Anatomy Lesson by Rembrandt.*
- (i) Belief that it would be disrespectful/ Absence of scientific curiosity/  
The Church opposed it, etc.  
Any **ONE** valid reason 1M
  - (ii) To make their paintings or sculptures more lifelike.  
**ONE** reason 2M
  - (iii) Telescope/ Planetary motion/ Pendulum theory/ Blood circulation, etc.  
Any **TWO** discoveries from science or medicine 1 + 1 = 2M