**Essay practice:**

The Rottgen Pieta was made in Germany in the Late Gothic period(13th 14th centuries). It is a carved statue lightly painted and carved out of wood. It stands at apoxamentaly 3ft tall, the statue was built on a small scale because it held a private devotional use, and could be owned by a common person, or most likely be kept in an German abbey on an altar. And not strictly relegated to those of wealth or higher class, allowing a more communal interaction. The Rottgen Pieta is depicting the scene of The Virgin Mary Holding a dead Jesus Chist after his crucification. Unlike much other art in Europe, it depicts Mary as a holy, heavenly being who is the queen of heaven. The Rottgen Pieta shows a more human depiction of both Mary and Christ. You can see this in the way their bodies are stylized and how they show movement. This expresses much more emotionalism

This image in no way relates to earlier depictions of Mary and Crist in the romanesque period or the depictions of byzantine art.

**Essay 2:**

This piece was most likely made by Johannes Vermeer because it demonstrates his techniques and unique themes. Vermeer's paintings focus around everyday life of mostly common people, which was very unique and different from most other painters of the time. Most famous and popular paintings during this time ( mid 1600’s) were focused around. He still incorporates some baroque aspects to his art, but there is much less of the Drama, grandeur, and emotional exuberance then seen in other Baroque paintings. Also unlike the normal trends instead of depicting scenes of aristocracy, royalty,religious scenes, or ancient Greek and Roman gods. He likes to depict orangery people in domestic narratives and going about daily life, which was unheard of for the times.

This piece compares to another one of Vermeer's works, Women holding a Balance, which depicts a wealthy woman in Holland who is thought to be a merchant. She is holding a scale and measuring her jewelry to determine its value. She is wearing very expensive clothes and is surrounded by nice furniture, but hanging behind her is a painting of the last judgment. Where Christ decides whether people will go to heaven and hell. Christ is also weighting - people's souls. And overall the painting is showing Contrasting elements and telling the viewer to not only focus on earthly aspects such as wealth, but to remember what will happen to you after you die and to not be greedy. This theme of symbolism can be seen in both paintings. In the painting of the Milkmaid the one of the tiles at the foot of the wall behind the maid, near the foot warmer, depicts Cupid, which could imply feelings of love and daydreaming as she goes about her work. Even ignoring the implications of the different features in each painting, it is clear to see the mastery of fine detail in Vermeer’s works and his ability to bring the subjects to life.

The Painting *Les Demoiselles D’Avignon*, challenges the concept of the nude in art. It is taking a common subject in art and twisting it in a unique way. Instead of depicting the nude as something beautiful, elegant, or something made to please the eye. APicasso is making something angular, distorted, and arguably ugly and grotesque. That is able to make the viewer question what the human body really is. Picasso also shows a completely flat painting, and lies in a singular plain, which differs from much other art. This flat painting, with no perspective or sense of curiscuro creates a clashing, messy painting which consists of a conglomeration of shapes and forms in the women's faces and bodies, which challenged the ideas perception and depth in painting. The painting also has no clear background or foreground, seeming to blend into itself, which makes it very avant-guard for the time period. Picasso also differed from other artists because this painting was less about depicting the model of the women he saw, then it was about depicting how he saw these women. The way he paints the women very angleary and aggressively, making them seem to glare through the canvas, shows his own thoughts in feelings towards the women; Showing his fear and intimidation.

Picasso’s *Les Demoiselles D'Avignon* is comparable to Giotto’s *lamentation*, which was created in 14th century Europe. The paintings themselves go over very different subjects and overall form, but they are very similar in their impact and effect on art as a whole. *Lamentation* was a drastically advanced painting of its time, there were elements such as a unique sense of perspective, spacing and emotion that had never been seen before. This is very similar to how In his piece, Picasso was able to change the way perspective was looked at, by getting rid of it. Create distorted spacing that had never been seen before, and until the painting with emotion, and a sense of life. So, although the end products differ, the base idea and impact are one in the same.

One piece that was influenced by Picasso's work, was *The Jungle* by Wifredo Lam, who was a Cuban painter, and known to be heavily influenced by Picasso. In his painting the Jungle there are references to the distorted and unique body forms that Picasso shows. Wifredo also takes inspiration from traditional African and Native American masks and sculpture like Picasso, and you can see that in the figures' faces and bodies. Both of the Works are created from a mostly flat perspective, and seem to borrow elements from cubism.