

## 2019 AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

6. The work shown is the Great Mosque of Djenné, which was founded in Mali c. 1200 C.E. The structure demonstrates characteristics of mosque architecture specific to its location.

Describe at least two materials or techniques used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.

Using specific evidence, explain how the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.

Using specific evidence, explain both how and why the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.



© George Steinmetz / Corbis

**STOP**  
**END OF EXAM**

**AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY**  
**2019 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 6**

The work shown is the Great Mosque of Djenné, which was founded in Mali c. 1200 C.E. The structure demonstrates characteristics of mosque architecture specific to its location.

Describe at least two materials or techniques used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.

Using specific evidence, explain how the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.

Using specific evidence, explain both how and why the architectural features of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrate changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.

**Scoring Criteria**

| <b>Task</b>                 |  | <b>Points</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>                    | Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.   | 1 point         |
| <b>2</b>                    | Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.   | 1 point         |
| <b>3</b>                    | Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture. | 1 point         |
| <b>4</b>                    | Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.    | 1 point         |
| <b>5</b>                    | Accurately uses specific evidence to explain why ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.    | 1 point         |
| <b>Total Possible Score</b> |  | <b>5 points</b> |

# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 6 (continued)

#### Scoring Notes

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <p><b>Accurately describes ONE material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.</b></p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mosque is made from <b>adobe</b> (the Spanish term for <b>mud brick</b>), which is made from earth and other available organic matter such as mud, sand, straw, dung and/or rice husks, based on what is available, and water to form the mud bricks. <i>Note:</i> the use of “brick” alone is not sufficient to earn the task point.</li> <li>Additional media: <b>terracotta tiles</b>/ceramic vessels/tubes and lids that cap openings in the roof, <b>timber</b> (palm) in the form of the projecting torons and the roof beams, and <b>mud plaster</b> coating the bricks.</li> <li><b>Ostrich eggs</b> are placed at the tops of mud-brick pillars on the exterior.</li> </ul> <p><b>Techniques:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The building is a <b>post-and-lintel construction</b> made of stacked mud bricks with projecting pilasters/buttresses on the exterior and 90 mud-brick pillars connected by arches on the interior that support a roof of mud and palm wood.</li> <li>The exterior of the building is <b>coated in plaster</b> to protect the mud bricks from the effects of weather and must be periodically recoated (the specific name of the annual ceremony where this occurs is <i>Crepissage</i> or <i>Crepissage de la Grande Mosquée</i>).</li> <li>The <b>torons/timbers</b> projecting from the exterior both reinforce the mud-brick walls and serve as scaffolding for the periodic replastering.</li> </ul> |
| <b>2</b> | <p><b>Accurately describes ANOTHER material OR technique used in the construction of the Great Mosque of Djenné.</b></p> <p>See above.</p>   |
| <b>3</b> | <p><b>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain how ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates continuity with global conventions of mosque architecture.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Djenné mosque contains the typical functional and symbolic mosque components of a <b>qibla wall</b> oriented in the direction of Mecca, <b>mihrab</b>, a <b>minbar</b>, and <b>minarets</b>.</li> <li>It also has the characteristic mosque spaces of a <b>prayer hall</b> and a <b>courtyard</b>.</li> <li>Its <b>soaring height</b> in comparison to the surrounding buildings makes it the visual center of the community, a typical characteristic for a primary congregational mosque or Friday mosque.</li> <li>Its <b>monumental size</b> is the norm for Friday mosques, which are supposed to be able to hold all Muslim males in the community.</li> <li>It has <b>spaces reserved for women</b> (in this case its galleries) as is typical of mosques.</li> </ul>   |

# AP<sup>®</sup> ART HISTORY

## 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 6 (continued)

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>4</b> | <p><b>Accurately uses specific evidence to explain <u>how</u> ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Djenné mosque uses the <b>materials and techniques characteristic of the region</b>, in this case <b>adobe/earthen construction</b>, and thus it differs from mosques built in other regions of the world.</li> <li>• The interior and exterior are largely <b>simple mud brick and mud plaster</b>, rather than the colorful two- or three-dimensional decoration seen in other traditions, such as tile, mosaic, stone, or colored and decorated plaster.</li> <li>• The building's exterior <b>projecting pilasters/buttresses</b> and pointed crenellations <b>mimic the town's domestic architecture and thus are local in derivation</b>.</li> <li>• Ventilation is provided by <b>openings in the roof</b> capped with terracotta, and small niches in roof/towers.</li> <li>• The <b>wood beams (torons)</b> projecting from the exterior are a <b>regionally specific architectural variation</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>pillars topped with ostrich eggs</b> are also a <b>regionally specific trait</b>.</li> <li>• The Djenné mosque's <b>flat roof</b> differs from other traditions of mosque building (which can include a central dome flanked by squinches/semidomes; soaring iwans and rows of small domes; or rows of trussed timber roofs).</li> <li>• The Djenné is also constructed on a <b>raised platform</b> that elevates it 3 meters above its surroundings.</li> </ul> |
| <b>5</b> | <p><b>Accurately explains <u>why</u> ONE architectural feature of the Great Mosque of Djenné demonstrates changes from global conventions of mosque architecture.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of thick <b>adobe/mud brick walls</b> is a response to local environmental conditions, <b>insulating the interior from heat</b> and maintaining a more constant temperature.</li> <li>• <b>Ventilation systems</b> are also a <b>response to heat</b> and a <b>local architectural solution</b> to this environment.</li> <li>• <b>Replastering</b> is an adaptation to the local rainy seasons and tied to local pre-Islamic beliefs that emphasize cyclical renewal.</li> <li>• <b>Wooden beams (torons)</b> reinforce the structure and are used for <b>scaffolding</b> in during periodic replastering.</li> <li>• <b>Ostrich eggs</b> incorporate references to local, pre-Islamic cultural <b>concepts related to purity and fertility</b>.</li> <li>• <b>The monumental exterior, with its projecting elements</b> (buttresses, crenellations, and towers), was likely <b>inspired by surrounding buildings</b> and <b>the knowledge of trained masons</b> who participated in building the mosque.</li> <li>• The appearance and construction continue the <b>long tradition of mud masonry in Djenné</b> while also visually and architecturally <b>connecting the mosque to its community surroundings</b>.</li> <li>• The elevated <b>platform</b> helps to protect the mosque from the <b>annual flooding</b> of the nearby Bani River.</li> </ul>  |