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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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Level 2 Art History, 2016

91181 Examine the meanings conveyed by art works

9.30 a.m. Tuesday 22 November 2016
Credits: Four

ANSWER BOOKLET

| Achievement | Achievement with Merit | Achievement with Excellence |
|---|--|--|
| Examine the meanings conveyed by art works. | Examine in depth the meanings conveyed by art works. | Examine critically the meanings conveyed by art works. |

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Answer ONE question from Question Booklet 91181Q. Write your answer in this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Low Excellence

TOTAL

7

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Question Number: ~~Two~~ Three

(a) **First Plate:**

In Rodin's ~~the~~ Gates of Hell, many symbols are used to communicate human suffering in his bronze ~~the~~ sculpture. One symbol is the ~~the~~ figure below the 3 ~~the~~ huddled figures at the very top of the sculpture, who has his ~~the~~ ~~head~~ head resting on his hand as though deep in thought. This figure is later recreated by Rodin and becomes its own sculpture named "The Thinker". This man, deep in thought, is ~~the~~ surrounded by the chaos of the overlapping figures behind him in the rest of the sculpture, he is brought forward so that he is closer to the front of the sculpture. The figure sits on a rock, his muscular body has been carved out of bronze, his body is smooth - though not as smooth as other sculptures by artists such as Canova, and his features have been carved carefully so the viewer can make out the expression

* continued on back

Second Plate:

~~The Romantic Artist~~
 The Raft of Medusa, a painting by J.M.W. Turner is a painting that captures human suffering with the use of different symbols. One of these symbols is the composition of the writhing bodies on the raft ~~which~~ which come together to form the shape of a triangle. ~~At the~~ At the bottom of the triangle lies the fallen and dead bodies, in the middle are the figures which are struggling but reach upwards to the figure at the top of the triangle, who raises ~~a~~ a piece of material in hope that a barely visible ship will spot it. Another symbol that conveys meaning about human ~~suffering~~ suffering is the bloody axe which lies on the raft in the bottom left of the painting, which symbolises the lengths that humans in suffering are brought to - cannibalism.

(b) The meanings conveyed by the man in thought in ~~the~~ Gates of Hell ~~is~~ are meanings about the thoughts of humans ~~in suffering~~ in suffering as well as how thoughts can add to human suffering. ~~The figure could also be a messenger to viewers that~~ This figure represents the process of thought that comes with human suffering. It was important that Rodin added this figure to his sculpture as it depicts the thoughts of a human who is suffering, and the placement of this figure is important too as it is placed over the viewers head - ~~the~~ and therefore thought.

The meanings of ~~death and danger~~ ^{symbol of the} ~~human~~ skull in the details of ~~the~~ Gates of Hell are important ~~in~~ in depictions of human suffering because it is a reminder that the end of the suffering of humans is death. The skull placed among alive humans is a reminder to viewers of Rodin's sculpture ~~of death's presence~~ of death's presence in human life.

The meanings conveyed by the triangular arrangement of bodies in Gericault's

The Raft of the Medusa is that there are different types of human suffering, and some people suffer more than others or differently to others. For example, within the figures is a man to the right of the painting who holds ~~his~~ the body of his dead son, his pose bears resemblance to 'the Thinker' in ~~the~~ Gates of Hell, ~~the~~ the thinking figures in both of these works represent the thoughts of people who are suffering, and how they are affected by the suffering of others. At the top of the triangular arrangement is the man who is waving to the ship, and this represents how even in the worst of human suffering, people can find hope.

The importance of displaying different types of human suffering in The Raft is that it gives a message to viewers that suffering in different ways is human nature.

The meanings conveyed by the ^{symbol of the} bloody axe on the raft is a reference to the fact that humans can ~~do~~ take drastic measures when they are ~~so~~ suffering. The Raft is a painting inspired by a contemporary event in 1819 where a group of people were

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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(a) continuing first plate
of deep and troubling thought on his face.
~~A symbol~~ in Rodin's Gates of Hell is
 the Another Symbol in Rodin's Gates of Hell is the human skull that can be seen in the details of the sculpture.
 A human skull is ~~the~~ a universal symbol for danger, and death, which are strong themes in this sculpture. The skull is placed amidst the chaos of the bodies above the doors of the sculpture, it is among the bodies of alive humans who fall around it. //

(b) abandoned on a raft by a noble who was ~~was~~ was given the job of being a sailor because he was a noble and not because he met the requirements to do so - and so he had an accident.
~~The~~ The people on the raft were eventually rescued, ~~and~~ and they reported cannibalism occurring on the raft. ~~The~~ The meanings conveyed by the symbol of the axe are important because it ~~represents~~ represents what long periods of suffering can do to humans, and also gives insight into the back //

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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story of a real life ^{example} ~~event~~ of human suffering. //

Rodin's Gates of Hell is a visual representation of the artist's idea of what hell looks like, which was created with the purpose of being the door to an art gallery, although it did not end up doing so and the artist died before he could finish the ~~work~~ sculpture himself. //

Gericault's The Raft of the Medusa is a painting inspired by a contemporary event in 1819. Romantic artworks were sometimes inspired by contemporary events such as this, and always have strong themes of ~~human~~ passion, in this case - in regards to human suffering.

Both of these artworks ~~presented~~ ~~are~~ ~~we~~ ~~use~~ ~~symbols~~ ~~to~~ ~~convey~~ meanings which depict different ways that humans suffer and present ideas in relation to human suffering. //

E7

07

The perceptive interpretation of the ways in which each art work conveys meanings about human suffering summarised in the last sentence, coupled with some understanding of context in the evaluation of the significance of the meanings, moves this response into E7.