Level 3 Art History, 2019

91484 Examine the relationship(s) between art and context

9.30 a.m. Monday 2 December 2019
Credits: Four

ANSWER BOOKLET

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Achievement with Merit</th>
<th>Achievement with Excellence</th>
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<td>Examine the relationship(s) between art and context.</td>
<td>Examine, in depth, the relationship(s) between art and context.</td>
<td>Examine, perceptively, the relationship(s) between art and context.</td>
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Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Use this booklet to answer ONE question from Question Booklet 91484Q.

If you need more room for your 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.
The Schröder House by Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld shows the link between art and social change. The Schröder house was built in 1924, just before the depression in the inter-war period. The Schröder House was built for a young widow and her three children. To be economically efficient the house was multipurpose, also being used as Rietveld's studio. The building was highly influenced by painter Piet Mondrian who was a fellow artist in the De Stijl art movement in post World War One Netherlands. De Stijl, or neo-plasticism, aimed to reduce things to their purist form. Their art consisted of straight horizontal or vertical lines and primary colours with shades of black and white. The Schröder house is the only building from the De Stijl movement. The exterior has planar walls which appear to extend beyond the cuboid shape of the building. This makes the house look modern and gives a sense of movement. This expresses Mondrian's ideas of art going beyond the canvas, it also expresses the De Stijl movement wanting to create a new, modern, utopian world as a reaction to the war and major changes in society. Inside the building there are walls that slide and fold away. This was previously seen in Japan with their paper, folding walls. The walls sliding away makes the Schröder house flexible and multipurpose. It also creates a more spacious feeling which is important in modern life as rapid urbanisation at the time lead to smaller houses. This idea
paved the way of today's tiny house movement. On the corner of the house, Rietveld incorporated two windows which open at the corner, dissolving the distinction between interior and exterior. This gave the house maximum air flow. The open corner along with predominantly white walls express the idea of healthy living. The Schröder House was innovative in its way of tackling issues caused by change, such as housing in urban settings and refuge for a family with low income in an era still impacted by war.

Another building that expresses the relationship between art and social change is Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple. America, particularly Chicago, was experiencing an economic boom due to mass immigration and urbanisation. The Unity Temple was built in 1905-8 after the previous church was burnt down. It was built in a leafy suburb in an urban landscape. Rapid urbanisation highly influenced the design of the church. Frank Lloyd Wright wanted to create a place that was calm and meditative. He did this by creating high walls with clerestory windows. The high walls block out the busy, stressful outside world helping to create a tranquil place of worship. The use of plain, modest concrete walls make the building timeless, while referencing classical architecture. The seating composition is unconventional for a church. Instead of having rows all facing the front, Wright placed three rows all facing inwards to the pulpit. This makes the church feel like an old meeting hall, creating a much needed sense of community in modern times. Frank Lloyd Wright incorporated skylights into the building to symbolise God's presence. He used autumnal colours for the stained glass, which relates to Wright's prairie houses which were also made during this early period of his career. The autumnal colours create
a connection to nature. Frank Lloyd Wright said “I believe in God, only I spell it nature”, his love of nature and expression of it in his buildings strongly all links to the Arts and Crafts movement and William Morris’s idea that that materials used in architecture should honour nature. This admiration of nature is important in a new urban setting because there is often a lack of nature in places where industrial factories and mass housing are present. The autumnal palette of the stained glass also creates a sense of warmth which adds to the feeling of community and belonging for the congregation.

These two buildings show the importance of adapting architecture to accommodate to social changes. Both buildings create a place of refuge in a world of new urban lifestyles. Both architects skillfully created solutions to social issues at the time through their innovative buildings.
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<td>7</td>
<td>E7</td>
<td>This candidate response sits at E7, Low Excellence. The candidate presents a response that consistently addresses the context of social change in relation to art works. The response is coherent, relatively well structured and concise, while continuously providing pertinent knowledge such as geographical detail and comparisons that serve to demonstrate an evaluative tone. The steady flow of detail builds to present an overall level of perception. By presenting a concise and explicit argument at the beginning, the candidate could have used pertinent knowledge and detail to refer back to, and build upon, a more decisive evaluation.</td>
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