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91181



Draw a cross through the box (☒) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Art History 2025

### 91181 Examine the meanings conveyed by art works

Credits: Four

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.

**You should attempt ONE of the questions in this booklet.**

Make sure that you have Resource Booklet L2-ARTR.

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 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

**Achievement**

**TOTAL 04**

## SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

OR: QUESTION TWO

Select and name TWO art works that depict individuals and / or groups of people. ONE work must be from

Plates 1–6 in the resource booklet. The other may be from Plates 1–6 OR may be an art work of your own choice.

(a)

In each of your chosen art works, describe at least TWO symbols or motifs and their meanings.

(b)

Explain how these symbols or motifs were important in conveying meaning about individuals and / or groups of people in this period.

Select your first art work from the resource booklet:

5: Degas, The Dance Class

Type your second art work here:

Berthe Morisot With a Bunch of Violets, Manet

## PLANNING

The Dance class

- group
- colourful ribbons - youth beauty
- restless emotions - youth, discipline, forced to be something that isn't what you want or care for
- the man in the middle, dominance, different colour to the rest of the group, masculine figure, elder, bias
- parent in the back - expectations
- the group of white blending together - community, empathy, feminine, group
- the walls - motif, impressionist feature, textured, rough, empty space, class, breaking expectations, free spirit.

Berthe Morisot

- smart
- personal meaning
- feminine
- violets symbolise humility
- lighting
- friendly, natural
- inviting, secret passion

## ANSWER SPACE

Type your answer in the space below. You should aim to write a concise response of no more than 750-800 words. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your answer. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

B I U ☰ ∨ ☷ ∨ ↶ ↷ ?

[The Dance class is a classic impressionist painting, portraying the youthful emotions of expectations of beauty in a group in this period. In this painting the main group seen is the ballet dancers. As the title provides, this capturing a class not a performance. The artist Degas preferred this because he wanted to show the reality of these dancers. The personal side to them and what their experience is like. This leads to the meaning of the painting which is to show the treatment of the dancers, and the restless youth. Tired of meeting the expectations of the elders. This is symbolised in the form of the placement of the elder apart from the girls. and the use of proportion to bring attention of the expression of the girls by bringing the most important closer and bigger to the forefront of the image.

In the dead centre of the image the teacher, presumably, is in the middle of the class. His authority is shown by the direction the girls are facing at the actions they do. It is seen on the direct left of the man that a girl is elegantly posing as they make eye contact. showing what the teacher's attention is toward those following the instructions. His direction is facing he opposite of the girls closest to the viewer who are slouched, sitting, tired. Most definably the girl sitting on the piano is scratching her back. showing that the clothing she wears are uncomfortable. This symbolises the artificial portrayal of elegancy that the girls are expected to feed into but it is not in their nature. The ribbon, coloured and pretty, to symbolise the youth of the girls the dog too has the same affect. This is implied by the placement of the dog as it is by the two girls who have the most symbolism. This symbolism is used to convey the meaning about the expectation and beauty standards of young girls in the 19th century. This shows a personal, instant of a moment. To make an impact on how society treats women. Degas among other impressionists created a movement, bringing attention to the treatment of women and helped them as a community be seen as an individual. This is done by showing them as they are, restless, free spirited, in their natural state we see that their being pressured in society to be more than they are.

Berthe Morisot With a Bunch of Violets is a personal portrait. Showing her personality and link between her and the artists. This impressionist style had a radical impact on french art at the time and created more space for women to be shown in this form.

In this portrait, we can see Morisot, a fellow impressionist and work friend of Manet, in mourning attire in the light of the sun coming from the left window with a subtle bunch of violets. Symbolism of the individual can be seen by the ambiguous, subtle grin on her face. This expression has left many art critiques curious of the relationship of her and the artist. the light hitting against her face shows her beauty and symbolises her personality, one of kind and intuitive nature along side the use of warn natural colours creating an inviting tone. Another use of symbolism is scene as implied by the title, the bunch of violets. These flowers, due to the impressionist textures of the image are hard to see in front of her dark clothing. But when they are noticed, they are prompt upright upon her chest. The meaning of the flowers is to symbolise her intelligence and reserved humble nature. Before this image, as her and the artist have been friends for a while, along side Monet and Manet's brother who becomes Berthe's husband, Eugene. there are many portraits of her done by Manet, alongside other friends but several other portraits. This when put in context to this painting shows us that the simplicity of this painting is all the image needs to understand her. As a woman in the 19th century, women were not as successful as men and needed to rely on a man for support or a place in a community. With this portrait, this tells us that her individual experience in this 19th century lifestyle is one decided by herself and not others.

This use of symbolism created by Manet show the meaning of the image is to show this woman is one of her own. And maybe its not a romantic relationship they have but an influential and inspiring one. That Manet is fascinated by her different perspective, that it must be shown to others. To see what he sees.

## Achievement

**Subject:** Art History

**Standard:** 91181

**Total score:** 04

Grade score	Marker commentary
A4	<p>The response describes meanings evenly in two art works. While two ideas of beauty and restless youth are described in Degas's work, the symbols of placement and pose are limited in providing more depth to depicting an individual or group. While there is also description of symbols in Manet's work, again the specific evidence is somewhat limited, except for the reference to the violets being a symbol of her intelligence and humble nature. This comment demonstrates more understanding of the significance of the portrait's intimate nature and makes this a stronger level of achievement.</p>