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91182



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

91182 Examine the influence of context(s) on art works

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine the influence of context(s) on art works.	Examine in depth the influence of context(s) on art works.	Examine perceptively the influence of context(s) on 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.

Select and name TWO art works with a social context. 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)

Using your chosen art works, describe the influences of the social context.

(b)

Explain how this context has influenced the characteristics of your chosen art works.

Select your first art work from the resource booklet:

6: Seurat, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte ▾

Type your second art work here:

Monet, Impression Sunrise

PLANNING

Monet, Impression Sunrise, oil on canvas, 48x63cm Musee Marmottan Paris, 1872
Le Havre

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 term context in art history refers to the political, social, technological, or philosophical circumstances which influenced an artworks style, shapes or technique. Understanding the context is crucial to the viewer as it shows them why the artist decided on certain styles, shapes, and subject matter. Seurats *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* (1884-1886, oil on canvas, 207.5 x 308.1cm, Art institute of chicago, USA) and Monets *Impression Sunrise* (1872, oil on canvas, 48 x 63cm, Musee Marmottan Paris, France) are both artworks that were heavily influenced by the social context of the period. During the 1880s, Seurat, along with the rest of middle class society were enjoying leisure and relaxing in parks. During the 1870s Monet was experiencing the rapid effects of industrialisation whilst society was getting to know the technologies that were being developed and excited for the future.

Seurats painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* depicts the middle class enjoying leisure time along the river Siene, with individuals playing instruments, rowing, and fishing. The public appears almost statuesque and carefully composed. With peoples rigid postures and neutral expressions reflecting on the middle classes new found love for leisure. This strongly influenced Seurats use of Pointilism, the use of precisely placed dots of pure colour, drifting away from the dynamic, spontaneous acts of impressionism, and closing in on a more

relaxed, intellectual way of portraying the acts of modern society. Another stylistic characteristic applied by Seurat which was influenced by the contemporary society is composition. Alongside the statuesque and idealised people, the balanced and almost symmetrical arrangement of figures mirrors the modern society of that period. Specifically, the middle-class. The middle class during the 1880s were engaged by the newfound leisure, along with extravagant clothing, they are able to mirror the look of the higher class and the bourgeois. Yet small features such as the woman on the river bank appears to be fishing, when in reality, she is a prostitute disguised as the upper class fishing for men.

Monet's painting *Impression Sunrise* depicts distorted shapes of boats gently paddling beneath the hazy dawn, with subtle forms of industrial chimneys and construction barely visible through the mist, with the morning sun refracting on the surface of the ocean. Monet's depiction of the boats scattered throughout the harbour was influenced by society's response to the rapid industrialisation of the 1870s. His focus on colour and the smooth pure gradient of pure oranges and blues depicts beauty within such an industrial world, displaying society's acceptance of the rapid advancements and how both the industrial world, and natural world can co-exist in harmony. Another key element that was influenced by the contemporary society of the time was Monet's technique. Monet creates the artwork by applying broken, spontaneous strokes of paint to the canvas, depicting movements and a sense of excitement. Again, reflecting the general public's response to the newly developed technology and the curiosity and excitement which they grew, wondering what the future could possibly look like.

Ultimately, both Seurat's *A Sunday Afternoon in the Island of La Grande Jatte*, and Monet's *Impression Sunrise* are heavily influenced by the social context of their individual time period. Despite a gap of approximately 15 years, both artworks respond entirely differently to the contemporary general public's circumstances. Monet was influenced by the people's acceptance of the developing world around them with the co-existence of both the industrial and natural world. Seurat was influenced by the middle classes' adaptation to the newfound leisure time as they attempt to disguise themselves as the higher class. In all, despite the entirely different artistic periods, one was just as influenced by society as the other.

617 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Achievement

Subject: Art History

Standard: 91182

Total score: 04

Grade score	Marker commentary
A4	The candidate has engaged with the context and their chosen art works in a descriptive manner. They have used description of context and passages from their chosen art works as evidence of their understanding. At times the response reads like an overview and lacks specificity, resulting in a high Achievement grade.