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91483A



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Art History 2025

91483 Examine how meanings are communicated through art works

Credits: Four

ANSWER BOOKLET

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine how meanings are communicated through art works.	Examine, in depth, how meanings are communicated through art works.	Examine, perceptively, how meanings are communicated through 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.

Write your answers in this booklet.

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 2–10 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.

QUESTION SEVEN: Open choice

Select and name TWO art works that convey meanings about art and everyday life. Both art works may be selected from Plates 1–30 in the resource booklet, or they may be art works of your own choice, or a combination of the two.

With reference to your selected art works:

(a)

explain the meanings in EACH art work that demonstrate aspects of everyday life, and

(b)

explain how the construction of these meanings conveys ideas about art.

Name your chosen art works:

Art work (1):

Self Portrait as a Soldier, 1914, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner

Art work (2):

Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J.), 1907, Pablo Picasso

PLANNING

Les Femmes d'Alger: simultaneous fear and attraction (disease, sexuality)

Self portrait as a soldier: the loss of self from trauma (common during war as many suffered from PTSD)

ANSWER SPACE

Type your answer in the space below. You should aim to write a concise response of no more than 800–900 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 ☰ ∨ ☷ ∨ ↶ ↷ ?

Art is a reflection of everyday life, with the stories being told either wishes for the future or reflections on the past. Two paintings that convey meanings about art and everyday life are Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's Self Portrait as a Soldier, 1915 and Les Femmes d'Alger, by Pablo Picasso in 1907.

Self Portrait as a Soldier by Kirchner in 1915 displays the aspect of everyday life of losing yourself to the chaos surrounding you through the meaning of a broken, lost artist after war. Kirchner painted this after serving for two months in the German military where he was forcibly discharged after a mental breakdown, yet he still feels like he is stuck on the front line, which can be seen in the feature of him still wearing a Soldier's uniform, standing out with shades of red and blue against the background which shows his strong, anxious feelings about the war and how he is unable to escape the identity of being a soldier as even his eyes are the same colour as his uniform, with no eyes to show his true identity, no light, no soul, we can see him losing himself to the chaos of life, which was and is a everyday aspect of life. Another feature which shows the everyday aspect of losing yourself to the chaos surrounding you and the meaning of a broken artist after war

is his disfigured hands. One hand is a blood-soaked stump, which is the hand which he is known to have painted with, which shows he felt he had lost his ability to paint after the chaos of serving in war, therefore losing his main identity as an artist, and his other hand is claw-like further showing his feelings of being transformed by the chaos of war into something he is not: a blood-hungry hound, ready to kill the enemy. This disconnect from his former self can be further confirmed by nude figure behind him, which signifies his distance from his previous self, unable to look back on who he used to be as he has lost it to the chaos of the world surrounding him, unable to be an artist, or free of the trauma that changed him ever again. This meaning of being a broken, lost artist in the trauma of war demonstrates aspects of everyday life then and now, as many soldiers suffered from PTSD and were never able to recover and be fully themselves again, and as many people feel that they lose themselves to the world full of politics, conflict, and uncertainty then and now.

Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O) by Picasso in 1907 displays the aspect of everyday life of the simultaneous emotions of fear and attraction through the meaning of fearing Prostitutes in a Brothel while also being attracted to them. Picasso's relationship with Fernande Olivier no doubt inspired aspects of this piece, as it was toxic and almost violent at times, fearing her actions but also being attracted to her simultaneously. We can see this in the angular and geometric forms of the prostitutes, which show his feelings towards women at the time as dangerous as he creates their confronting and sharp forms, yet also being simultaneously attracted to them as he portrayed them as prostitutes, even Picasso himself said that one of the females in the painting was based on Fernande, showing the aspect of everyday life of the simultaneous emotions of fear and attraction through the forms of the women in the painting. Another feature of the painting which displays the aspect of everyday life of the simultaneous emotions of fear and attraction through the meaning of fearing Prostitutes in a Brothel is the mask-like forms and the grey table down the front and centre of the painting. The females have mask-like faces which are inspired by primitive art, showing the fears that Picasso had of Sexual Diseases, yet the grey table down the bottom-centre of the artwork is known to act as a showing of male attraction, in which the male body points to the female he is most attracted to, with the bowl of fruit sitting on top being the ancient symbol of sexuality. These two features contrast with each other as while he fears the women for the possibility of sexual diseases, he positions the viewer, himself as the overall male gaze and shows his clear attraction with the strong, hard angle of the table pointing to one of the ladies, being attracted to him simultaneously, while still in fear of diseases from the prostitute. This meaning of fearing ladies/prostitutes while also being simultaneously attracted to him demonstrates aspects of everyday life then and now, as many people fear romance, as a person you are attracted to on a date is a big fear of many, and people fear being intimate because of all the possible diseases you could catch and emotional and physical ways you could get hurt, yet they want to do it first off because they are attracted to that person, with Picasso in this painting showing us the aspect of everyday life of simultaneous fear and attraction as he is afraid, yet he is still attracted.

The construction of these meanings in both Self Portrait as a Soldier and Les Femmes d'Alger convey the idea that art is a display of emotions and ideas which help the viewer view the world differently as Self Portrait as a Soldier allows the viewer to see past the glorification of Heroism and to the true effects of war on a Soldier, and Les Femmes d'Alger allows the viewer to see past the allure which surrounds prostitutes and to the danger and fear of sexual diseases, which are commonly passed on from them.

Overall, Self Portrait as a Soldier and Les Femmes d'Alger convey meanings about art and everyday life because they show the emotions that are felt in everyday life: Loss of Self through the Chaos surrounding you in Self Portrait as a Soldier and the simultaneous feelings of fear and attraction in Les Femmes d'Alger.

Achievement

Subject: Art History

Standard: 91483

Total score: 04

Grade score	Marker commentary
A4	<p>The candidate begins by introducing the question and identifying two appropriate artists and art works. They then go on to explain a range of motifs in the first art work and how they are relevant and demonstrate everyday life. The second art work and artist is then introduced, and the candidate explains the relevance of the art work to the artist's aims and intentions. Again, a range of motifs is identified and explained and then linked back to the question. The candidate then concludes by reinforcing one of the key points discussed and stating how it exemplifies the question.</p> <p>For Merit, specific motifs that illustrated the theme of 'the everyday' needed to be explained directly and in more depth, identifying in detail how these features were typical of each artist's work and the artistic style that each identified with.</p>