

Assessment Specifications

Level 3 Art History 2026

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General information

Domain:	Art History
Standards:	91482, 91483, 91484
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Online digital examination

[Art History subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

Candidates are encouraged to write a concise response of no more than 800–900 words (5–6 pages) for each standard. Assessment will be based on the quality of the response rather than its length.

Information in planning spaces will not be marked.

Further information about digital external assessment can be found on the NZQA website.

[Digital external assessment](#)

Areas of Study

1. Early Renaissance (c.1300–1470s)

Artists:

- Duccio di Buoninsegna
- Giotto di Bondone
- Pietro Lorenzetti
- Ambrogio Lorenzetti
- Simone Martini
- Filippo Brunelleschi
- Lorenzo Ghiberti
- Donatello
- Masaccio
- Fra Angelico
- Gentile da Fabriano
- Paolo Uccello
- Piero della Francesca.

The Life of St Francis, fresco cycle in Upper Church at Assisi, traditionally attributed to Giotto, but now recently attributed to the Master of the St Francis Cycle.

Styles:

- Italo-Byzantine
- Sienese
- Florentine
- Classicism
- Naturalism
- International Gothic.

Meanings:

- Christian stories and themes, the life and role of saints, including Jesus and the Virgin Mary
- People: everyday life, wealth and status, portraiture
- Classical influences and the development of humanism
- Nature and landscape.

Contexts:

- Religious contexts (e.g. Christianity, Franciscan contexts, art and architecture as a setting for Christian rituals)
- Philosophical contexts (e.g. Humanism, classical influences)
- Economic contexts (e.g. patronage, wealth and status, trade and banking networks, commerce)
- Political contexts (e.g. wealthy families, government, civic, religious and papal power, battles and war).

2. Late Renaissance (c.1470–1540s)

Artists:

- Andrea Mantegna
- Giovanni Bellini
- Sandro Botticelli
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Raphael Santi
- Michelangelo Buonarotti
- Pontormo
- Bronzino
- Titian.

Architecture:

- St Peter's Basilica
- The Tempietto of San Pietro in Montorio
- The Sistine Chapel (interior only).

Styles:

- Regional styles (Florentine, Venetian, Roman)
- Naturalism
- Classicism
- Idealisation
- Mannerism.

Meanings:

- Christian stories and themes, the life and role of saints
- People, everyday life, ideas about the individual, portraiture
- Classical themes, Neoplatonism and humanism
- Exploration of science and nature.

Contexts:

- Religious contexts (e.g. Christianity, art and architecture as a setting for Christian rituals)
- Philosophical contexts (e.g. humanism, Neoplatonism)
- Economic contexts (e.g. patronage, wealth and status, banking, maritime and trading networks)
- Political contexts (e.g. powerful families, government, civic, imperialist and papal power).

3. Early Modernism (1900–1940)

Artists:

- Henri Matisse
- Pablo Picasso
- Constantin Brâncuși
- Umberto Boccioni
- Piet Mondrian
- Ernst Kirchner
- Käthe Kollwitz
- Wassily Kandinsky
- Hannah Höch
- Marcel Duchamp
- Joan Miró
- René Magritte
- Salvador Dalí.

Styles:

- Fauvism
- Cubism
- Futurism
- De Stijl
- Die Brücke
- Der Blaue Reiter
- Dada
- Surrealism.

Meanings:

- Personal experiences, the unconscious
- Change: modernity, urbanisation, science
- Responses to war
- 'Primitivism' and the return to nature
- Philosophy and spirituality.

Contexts:

- Modernity (e.g. technology and science)
- Social contexts (e.g. urbanisation, class change)
- Political contexts (e.g. imperialism, nationalism, colonialism, war and its aftermath)
- Philosophical and theoretical contexts (e.g. Theosophy, the self and Nietzsche, Freud and psychoanalysis).

4. Modernist Design and Architecture (1900–1960)

Designers and Architects:

- René Lalique
- Peter Behrens
- Sonia Delaunay (design works)
- Gerrit Rietveld
- Cassandre
- Walter Gropius
- László Moholy-Nagy
- Marianne Brandt
- Vladimir Tatlin
- Alexander Rodchenko
- Mies Van der Rohe
- Le Corbusier
- Frank Lloyd Wright.

Art Deco Architecture:

- Chrysler Building
- Empire State Building
- Rockefeller Centre.

Styles:

- Modernism
- Art Deco
- De Stijl
- Bauhaus
- Constructivism
- International
- Brutalism.

Meanings:

- Modern life, advertising, corporate image, and leisure
- Change, modernity, urbanisation, technology, science
- Domestic life
- Philosophy and politics: utopianism, socialism, communism.

Contexts:

- Modernity (e.g. technology and science)
- Economic contexts
- Social contexts (e.g. urbanisation, class change)
- Political contexts (e.g. communism, socialism, internationalism).

5. Modernism to Postmodernism (1940s–c.2000)

Artists:

- Edward Hopper
- Jackson Pollock
- Mark Rothko
- Robert Rauschenberg
- Claes Oldenburg
- Andy Warhol
- Roy Lichtenstein
- Judy Chicago
- Barbara Kruger
- Colin McCahon
- Ralph Hōtere
- Jacqueline Fahey
- Dick Frizzell.

Styles:

- Realism
- Abstract Expressionism
- Modernism
- Abstraction
- Neo Dada
- Pop Art
- Feminism
- Postmodernism.

Meanings:

- Place
- Philosophy, spirituality and beliefs
- Identity
- The everyday, popular culture, and consumerism
- Ideas about art.

Contexts:

- Social contexts
- Economic contexts
- Political contexts
- Mass media.

6. Contemporary Diversity (after 2000)

Artists:

- Christian Boltanski
- Andreas Gursky
- Ai Weiwei
- Damien Hirst
- Yayoi Kusama
- Mariko Mori
- Bill Culbert
- Shane Cotton
- John Pule
- Michael Parekōwhai
- Lisa Reihana
- Fiona Pardington
- Shigeyuki Kihara.

Architecture:

- Frank Gehry – Bilbao Guggenheim Museum
- Zaha Hadid – MAXXI National Museum of the 21st century Arts, Rome
- I.M. Pei – Museum of Islamic Art, Doha
- Daniel Libeskind (Berlin) – Holocaust Museum.

Styles:

- Conceptual
- Deconstructivist
- Site-specific
- Anti-aesthetic
- Digital installation
- Collaborative.

Meanings:

- Reality
- Identity
- Narrative
- Popular culture, commodification
- Ideas about art, media, and culture.

Contexts:

- Globalisation, commodification
- The digital environment (e.g. new technologies, virtual realities, global net)
- Challenging power and hierarchies (e.g. postcolonialism, populist movements)
- Environmental and cultural interactions.

Resources or information supplied

Candidates will be provided with:

- one resource booklet for use with all 3 standards, containing 30 plates (5 plates for each area of study).

Candidates completing the assessment on paper will also be provided with:

- a combined question-and-answer booklet for 91482
- a question booklet and a separate answer booklet for 91483 and 91484.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91482
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of style in art works
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4

The paper will consist of ONE question. The question may be answered with reference to any one, or more, of the areas of study.

- Candidates will select TWO stylistic characteristics from a list provided.
- Candidates will select TWO art works from the resource booklet.
- Candidates will need to demonstrate their understanding of style through the analysis of their TWO selected art works.

Standard:	91483
Title:	Examine how meanings are communicated through art works
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4

The paper will consist of SEVEN questions – one for each area of study plus an open question.

- Candidates will select ONE question to answer and select TWO art works to refer to in their response.
- Both art works may be selected from the resource booklet, or they may be art works of the candidate's own choice, or a combination of the two.

Standard:	91484
Title:	Examine the relationship(s) between art and context
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4

The paper will consist of SEVEN questions – one for each area of study plus an open question.

- Candidates will select ONE question to answer and select TWO art works to refer to in their response.
- Both art works may be selected from the resource booklet, or they may be art works of the candidate's own choice, or a combination of the two.