Art History

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which artist painted the Water Lilies series inspired by his pond at Giverny?
   A. Claude Monet
   B. Paul Cézanne
   C. Pierre-Auguste Renoir
   D. Camille Pissarro
   Correct answer: A. Claude Monet
   Monet repeatedly painted the water lily pond he created at Giverny. His later paintings often focus on the pond’s surface and reflections.

2. Who made the Japanese print Under the Wave off Kanagawa, often called The Great Wave?
   A. Kitagawa Utamaro
   B. Utagawa Hiroshige
   C. Katsushika Hokusai
   D. Tōshūsai Sharaku
   Correct answer: C. Katsushika Hokusai
   Hokusai made the print for Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji. The distant mountain appears beneath the cresting wave.

3. A Byzantine design is built from many small pieces of colored glass and stone set next to each other. What is this technique called?
   A. Fresco
   B. Mosaic
   C. Engraving
   D. Embroidery
   Correct answer: B. Mosaic
   A mosaic assembles small units into an image or pattern. The individual pieces are called tesserae.

4. Which Dutch artist painted Woman Holding a Balance, showing a figure beside a table with jewelry and a Last Judgment painting behind her?
   A. Jan Steen
   B. Judith Leyster
   C. Frans Hals
   D. Johannes Vermeer
   Correct answer: D. Johannes Vermeer
   Vermeer painted the quiet interior. The small balance and the Last Judgment painting are important details in the National Gallery’s interpretation.

5. A label describes late nineteenth-century French painters who used visible brushstrokes and shifting light to depict scenes of modern life. Which movement fits?

A. Cubism
B. Impressionism
C. Neoclassicism
D. Surrealism

Correct answer: B. Impressionism
Impressionists explored the appearance of light and color at particular moments and took subjects from contemporary life.

6. A Chinese Qing dynasty wine cup has a bamboo design in underglaze cobalt blue. What does underglaze tell you about the location of the blue decoration?

A. It lies beneath the glaze.
B. It was applied over the fired glaze.
C. It appears only on unglazed areas.
D. It is mixed into the porcelain throughout.

Correct answer: A. It lies beneath the glaze.
Underglaze decoration is applied before the covering glaze. The museum identifies the cup’s design as cobalt blue painted beneath the glaze.

7. The Met identifies a royal Asante-Akan kente as strip woven. Which description matches that construction?

A. Colored wax is placed on a finished cloth to resist dye.
B. Designs are printed onto a single piece of felt.
C. A wide sheet is cut from a larger embroidered panel.
D. Narrow woven bands are joined to make a wider cloth.

Correct answer: D. Narrow woven bands are joined to make a wider cloth.
Strip weaving produces narrow bands. Joining the bands makes a large cloth and lets their repeated patterns form a larger design.

8. On an Athenian vase, the figures retain the reddish color of the clay while the background is dark. Which technique does that describe?

A. Blue-and-white underglaze
B. Black-figure
C. Red-figure
D. White-ground with a pale slip

Correct answer: C. Red-figure
Red-figure painting leaves the intended figures the color of the clay and darkens the background. Black-figure painting reverses that color relationship.

9. In a Renaissance interior, the floor and ceiling edges that recede straight away from the viewer appear to converge on one spot. What device creates this effect?

A. One-point linear perspective
B. Hierarchical scale
C. Atmospheric perspective alone
D. A repeated border pattern

Correct answer: A. One-point linear perspective
One-point perspective projects a set of receding parallel lines toward one vanishing point. The convergence creates a measured illusion of depth.

10. A printmaker cuts away the wood around a leaf, rolls ink onto what remains, and presses paper against the block. Which part makes the printed leaf?

A. The gaps cut away around the leaf
B. The deepest carved hollow
C. The uninked back of the paper
D. The raised area left in the block

Correct answer: D. The raised area left in the block
A woodcut is printed in relief. The ink contacts the paper where the surface remains raised.

11. Two versions of the same outdoor view use nearly identical framing, but one uses cool shadows and the other uses warm shadows. The artist changed the time of day. What does the comparison best help a viewer study?

A. The difference between relief and intaglio printing
B. The effect of using different vanishing points
C. The effect of changing light on color
D. The difference between a fresco and a mosaic

Correct answer: C. The effect of changing light on color
With viewpoint and subject held steady, differences in the color of the shadows can be studied as effects of changing light. That approach fits Monet’s serial observations.

12. A still life breaks a bottle into interlocking planes and shows its rim and side as if seen from different positions. Which movement best fits this approach?

A. Impressionism
B. Cubism
C. Neoclassicism
D. Rococo

Correct answer: B. Cubism
Cubist artists could combine views and reorganize recognizable subjects into facets and overlapping planes.

13. An artist wants a relief print with a dark background and white lines. Which preparation will produce those white lines on uncolored paper?

A. Cut away the surface around each line.
B. Leave the lines at the same height as the inked surface.
C. Apply more dark ink only along the lines.
D. Cut the lines below the block’s inked surface.

Correct answer: D. Cut the lines below the block’s inked surface.
Carved lines sit below the roller and stay clear of ink. When the raised background prints dark, the carved lines show the paper.

14. The Met lists Under the Wave off Kanagawa as one print in Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji. How does the series title help explain the small mountain in the design?

A. The mountain is a recurring subject that can appear from different viewpoints.
B. The title proves this print was carved from thirty-six different blocks.
C. The mountain fixes the exact day on which the wave occurred.
D. The mountain identifies the collector who first bought the print.

Correct answer: A. The mountain is a recurring subject that can appear from different viewpoints.
The series presents Mount Fuji in varying views. In this print the distant mountain links the composition to the series even though the wave dominates.

15. One painting arranges a tiled room around one vanishing point. Another overlaps several viewpoints of a guitar. What is the strongest comparison?

A. The first records several viewpoints and the second uses a single fixed viewpoint.
B. Both eliminate objects so only abstract color remains.
C. The first unifies space from a fixed viewpoint, while the second combines viewpoints in one image.
D. Both create depth entirely through changes in color temperature.

Correct answer: C. The first unifies space from a fixed viewpoint, while the second combines viewpoints in one image.
A single vanishing point organizes the room around a stable view. Combining views of the guitar is a different way to represent the object on a flat surface.