

1.2 Italian Renaissance

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS italian renaissance 意大利文艺复兴 • humanism 人文主义 • patronage 赞助

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **Italian Renaissance** 意大利文艺复兴.

You must be able to:

- state what **humanism** 人文主义 was and what it studied
- explain the role of **patronage** 赞助 in Italian cities
- describe how classical models changed art and architecture
- avoid treating the Renaissance as a rejection of religion

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Humanism

The study of classical texts — grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, moral philosophy — pursued for what they taught about human conduct. Humanists were mostly Christians; the recovery of antiquity was not a rejection of faith.

■ Patronage

Wealthy families, guilds, and city governments commissioned works, and their tastes and purposes shaped what was made. A commission is evidence about the patron as well as the artist.

■ Classical models

Proportion, perspective, and the human figure were studied from antiquity and from observation. The result was a claim about how the world should be represented, not only a new technique.

2 Practice

2.1 State what humanists studied and why. [2]

2.2 Explain how patronage shaped what was produced. [2]

2.3 A student writes that the Renaissance “replaced religion with humanism”.

(a) State why this is inaccurate. [1]

(b) State a more accurate formulation. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Humanist study centred on [1]

- **A** natural science alone
- **B** classical texts and what they taught about conduct
- **C** the rejection of Christianity
- **D** military engineering

3.2 A commissioned altarpiece is evidence about [1]

- **A** the artist only
- **B** the patron as well as the artist
- **C** neither
- **D** the viewer only

3.3 Perspective in painting is described as a technique and as a claim.

(a) State the claim.

[1]

(b) Explain why it is more than a technique.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 classical texts — grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, moral philosophy; for what they taught about human conduct.

2.2 patrons commissioned works and their tastes and purposes determined subject and scale, so what survives reflects what patrons wanted.

2.3 (a) humanists were mostly Christians and the recovery of antiquity was not a rejection of faith. (b) e.g. that classical learning was added to and reshaped Christian culture rather than replacing it.

3.1 B. the studia humanitatis centred on texts about human conduct.

3.2 B. the commission records the patron's choice.

3.3 (a) that the world should be represented as it appears from a single human viewpoint. (b) it embeds an assumption about the observer's position, so it makes a claim about how reality should be seen, not only how paint is applied.