

# 1.3 Northern Renaissance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 11 marks**

**KEY WORDS** northern renaissance 北方文艺复兴 • christian humanism 基督教人文主义  
• religious reform 宗教改革 • mercantilism 重商主义

## Objective

Build the skills to compare the **Northern Renaissance** 北方文艺复兴 with the Italian.

**You must be able to:**

- state what Christian humanism emphasised
- explain the role of printing in spreading northern scholarship
- compare northern and Italian art in subject and method
- state one continuity between the two

## 1 Worked examples

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

### ■ Christian humanism

Northern humanists applied classical scholarly method to Christian sources: editing the biblical text, comparing manuscripts, recovering the church fathers. The method was humanist; the object was religious reform.

### ■ Printing and scholarship

Print made a corrected text available identically to scholars across Europe, which made collaborative and cumulative scholarship possible for the first time.

### ■ Comparing the art

Northern painting favoured detailed observation, domestic settings and oil technique; Italian painting favoured classical subjects, proportion and fresco. Both pursued closer representation of the visible world — that is the continuity.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** State what Christian humanists applied classical method to. [2]

**2.2** Explain why printing mattered for scholarship specifically. [2]

**2.3** Compare northern and Italian Renaissance art.

(a) State one difference. [1]

(b) State one continuity. [1]

## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** Editing and comparing biblical manuscripts is an example of [1]

- **A** rejecting scholarship
- **B** humanist method applied to Christian sources
- **C** Italian fresco technique
- **D** mercantilism

**3.2** Print made cumulative scholarship possible mainly because [1]

- **A** books became decorative
- **B** identical texts reached scholars across Europe
- **C** manuscripts were destroyed
- **D** Latin was abandoned

**3.3** A northern painting shows a merchant's room in exact detail.

(a) State what this indicates about northern priorities.

[1]

(b) Explain what it shares with Italian practice.

[2]

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## Solutions

**2.1** Christian sources — the biblical text, manuscripts, the church fathers; with the aim of religious reform.

**2.2** it made a corrected text available identically across Europe, so scholars could build on one another's work rather than on divergent copies.

**2.3** (a) any one: northern detail and domestic subjects against Italian classical subjects and proportion; oil against fresco. (b) both pursued closer representation of the visible world.

**3.1 B.** the method is scholarly, the object religious.

**3.2 B.** identical texts allow work to accumulate.

**3.3** (a) close observation of the visible and domestic world. (b) both traditions sought a more exact representation of what is seen, differing in subject rather than in that aim.