

4.5 18th-Century Culture and Arts

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS eighteenth-century culture 文化

Objective

Build the skills to analyse **eighteenth-century culture** 文化 and the arts.

You must be able to:

- describe the features of the period's dominant styles
- explain how a growing reading public changed what was produced
- state the role of academies and patronage
- connect a formal feature to an audience

1 Worked examples

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

■ The styles

A light, ornamental manner suited to private interiors and aristocratic sociability was followed by a severe classicism drawing on antiquity, associated with civic virtue and restraint.

■ The reading public

Growing literacy and cheaper print created a paying audience beyond court and church. Novels, periodicals and pamphlets were written for buyers, and the market began to compete with the patron.

■ Academies and patronage

Academies set standards, trained artists and controlled exhibition, while patrons still commissioned. Both shaped what could be made and shown.

■ Feature and audience

Ornament suits a private room and a viewer who values wit; severity suits a public building and a viewer meant to feel obligation. The style is a claim about who is watching.

2 Practice

2.1 State one feature of each of the period's two dominant styles. [2]

2.2 Explain how a paying public changed artistic production. [2]

2.3 A severe classical style is chosen for a public building.

(a) State what the style asserts. [1]

(b) State how you would link it to audience. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A growing reading public meant that writers could work for [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** patrons only
B a market of buyers
C the church alone
D nobody

3.2 Academies shaped production mainly by [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** buying all works
B setting standards, training artists and controlling exhibition
C printing novels
D enclosing land

3.3 An ornamental interior style gives way to classical severity in public commissions.

(a) State the change in what is being asserted. [1]

(b) Explain the connection to the period's politics. [2]
