

Exercise walk-through

Italian Renaissance ■ 1.2

eXercise

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

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what humanists studied and why.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

classical texts — grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, moral philosophy **B1**; for what they taught about human conduct **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how patronage shaped what was produced.

Solution 2.2

Method: Patronage

Worked steps

patrons commissioned works and their tastes and purposes determined subject and scale **B1**, so what survives reflects what patrons wanted **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

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

- (a) State why this is inaccurate.
- (b) State a more accurate formulation.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) humanists were mostly Christians and the recovery of antiquity was not a rejection of faith **B1**. (b) e.g. that classical learning was added to and reshaped Christian culture rather than replacing it **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Humanist study centred on

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

Solution 3.1

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

Worked steps

- B.** the studia humanitatis centred on texts about human conduct.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A commissioned altarpiece is evidence about

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

Solution 3.2

Method: Patronage

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



Worked steps

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

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

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

- (a) State the claim.
- (b) Explain why it is more than a technique.

Solution 3.3

Method: Classical models

Worked steps

(a) that the world should be represented as it appears from a single human viewpoint **B1**. (b) it embeds an assumption about the observer's position **B1**, so it makes a claim about how reality should be seen, not only how paint is applied **B1**.