

Exercise walk-through

Northern Renaissance ■ 1.3

eXercise

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

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what Christian humanists applied classical method to.

Solution 2.1

Method: Christian humanism

Worked steps

Christian sources — the biblical text, manuscripts, the church fathers **B1**; with the aim of religious reform **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why printing mattered for scholarship specifically.

Solution 2.2

Method: Printing and scholarship

Worked steps

it made a corrected text available identically across Europe **B1**, so scholars could build on one another's work rather than on divergent copies **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Compare northern and Italian Renaissance art.

- (a) State one difference.
- (b) State one continuity.

Solution 2.3

Method: Comparing the art

Worked steps

(a) any one: northern detail and domestic subjects against Italian classical subjects and proportion; oil against fresco **B1**. (b) both pursued closer representation of the visible world **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Editing and comparing biblical manuscripts is an example of

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

Solution 3.1

Method: Christian humanism

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

Worked steps

- B. the method is scholarly, the object religious.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Print made cumulative scholarship possible mainly because

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

Solution 3.2

Method: Printing and scholarship

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

Worked steps

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

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

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

- (a) State what this indicates about northern priorities.
- (b) Explain what it shares with Italian practice.

Solution 3.3

Method: Comparing the art

Worked steps

(a) close observation of the visible and domestic world **B1**. (b) both traditions sought a more exact representation of what is seen **B1**, differing in subject rather than in that aim **B1**.