

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]

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.