1 Multiple Choice (21 pts)

Circle ALL of the correct answers. If none are correct, circle NONE of the answers.
If you are unsure, you can try and convince me of your reasoning in the margins.

1.1 Basic Aesthetics (3 pts x 5 = 15 pts)

1. Logic, ethics and aesthetics are

(a) different ways to approach the assessment of an object’s ARTISTIC VALUE

(b) three of KANT’S CRITERIA

(c) REPRESENTATIONAL and EXPRESSIVE at the same time

(d) sub-disciplines of PHILOSOPHY

(e) all fields of study that investigate VALUE-JUDGEMENTS

2. Consider the following excerpt from an article by Rob Walker:

...it’s about Apple’s great sense of design. But what does that really mean? “Most people make the mistake of thinking design is what it looks like,” says Steve Jobs, Apple’s C.E.O. “People think it’s this veneer – that the designers are handed this box and told, ‘Make it look good!’ That’s not what we think design is. It’s not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.”

Based on this quote, indicate which of the following are true

a) Steve Job’s approach to DESIGN satisfies Kant’s third criterion of DISINTERESTEDNESS because he correlates the design-value of an object with how well it works.

b) Steve Job’s approach to DESIGN satisfies Kant’s second criterion of UNIVERSALITY because whether or not an object works/functions as it is meant to is not something that results in differences of opinion.

c) Steve Job’s approach to DESIGN satisfies Kant’s fourth criterion of triggering the IMAGINATION AND INTELLECT because his products were innovative, causing people to wonder why they hadn’t thought to approach design the way Apple had.

d) Steve Job’s approach to DESIGN fails to satisfy Kant’s first criterion of SUBJECTIVITY because whether or not something “works” is an intuitive judgement, and not something that can be calculated, based on the systematic application of a rule.

e) Steve Job’s approach to DESIGN fails to satisfy Kant’s third criterion of DISINTERESTEDNESS because he equates the design-value of an object with how useful it is.
3. Consider the following quote from Igor Babailov.

*Painting should educate and enrich. Modern painting merely offers a split-second emotion: You see it, you have an instant reaction and move on. Instead, real painting can be looked at over and over again and each time it has something new.*

Based on this quote, which of the following are valid statements?

a) Babailov’s view of art is incompatible with Kant’s **SUBJECTIVITY** criterion, because he believes that real art (in contrast to modern painting) involves more than an instantaneous emotional reaction.

b) Babailov’s view of art is compatible with Kant’s **SUBJECTIVITY** criterion, because if you can learn new things each time you look at a painting, each time you look at a painting you are having a personal, individual experience.

c) Babailov’s view of art is compatible with Kant’s **DISINTERESTEDNESS** criterion because he believes that art should “educate and enrich,” which provides the perceiver with an (educational) benefit.

d) Babailov’s view of art is incompatible with Kant’s **DISINTERESTEDNESS** criterion because he believes that art cannot fail to be interesting, since each time you look at it, you can see something new.

e) Babailov’s view of art is compatible with Kant’s fourth criterion - i.e., **TRIGGERING THE IMAGINATION AND INTELLECT** because he believes art “educates and enriches” the perceiver, which requires that art causes the perceiver to use their brains (as opposed to relying purely on emotions).

4. Indicate which of the following statements are consistent with what we have learned about Plato and Aristotle’s views of art and beauty.

a) Aristotle believed that beauty was deceptive, and therefore immoral.

b) Plato believed that art expresses universal truths and themes about human nature, and was therefore valuable.

c) Aristotle believed that beauty was cathartic. Since Aristotle also believed that catharsis was required in order to discover truth, he considered beauty to be valuable.

d) Plato believed that art was a bad influence on young people because depictions of dishonesty, greed and violence would cause them to commit these actions.

e) Aristotle believed that art could influence young people’s actions, but in a positive way

5. The following is a quote from American Watercolor artist Phil Dike

*A painting is good not because it looks like something but rather because it feels like something.*

Based on this quote, indicate which of the following are true:

a) Dike’s opinion on painting is compatible with the **EXPRESSIVE CONCEPTION OF ART**

b) Dike’s opinion on painting is compatible with the **MEDIUM CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH TO ART**

c) Dike’s opinion on painting is compatible with the **MIMETIC APPROACH TO ART**

d) Dike’s opinion on painting is compatible with the **REPRESENTATIONAL APPROACH TO ART**

e) Dike’s opinions on painting is compatible with the **RADICAL CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH TO ART**
1.2 Aesthetics and Art History (6pts)

Directions: Use the following multiple-choice options to indicate which ART HISTORY MOVEMENTS are compatible with the descriptions below; Circle all of the compatible movements:

(A) Renaissance  (E) Neo-Classicism
(B) Mannerism     (F) Realism
(C) Baroque       (G) Modern Art/DADA-ism
(D) Rococo        (H) None of the above

1. **Idealized** body proportions/depictions of human form
2. Asymmetrical poses and/or compositions
3. Conceptual, as opposed to representational, content
4. High-contrast values, intense emotions and political meaning
5. Cold colour palettes
6. A rebellion against the previously **ideal** nature of art

2 Short Answer (15 pts)

**Walead Beshty’s FedEx Sculptures**

Walead Beshty is an artist who made a series of laminated glass sculptures with the exact dimensions of the shipping boxes that FedEx, an American shipping company, uses. Having designed the pieces to crack and shatter, he then shipped the glass boxes in FedEx boxes to various exhibitions and galleries, where the shattered glass boxes would then be displayed next to their shipping box. After the exhibition, the glass sculptures would be packed back into the FedEx boxes and sent to different exhibitions. Each time the sculptures were shipped, the glass would gain more cracks, and the boxes would gain more wear and tear, so each exhibition of the sculpture series was unique.

Use the following multiple-choice options to answer the following questions. Note that more than one response may be required:

(A) The Representational Conception of Art  (D) The Constructivist Paradigm of Art
(B) The Aesthetic Conception of Art       (E) The Expressive Conception of Art
(C) The Contextualist Paradigm of Art     (F) None of the Above
1. Beshty’s glass sculpture series was inspired by his discovery that FedEx has a copyright design on each of their shipping boxes, where the design copyright is based on the volume/dimensions of the box. Intrigued by the idea that a company can legally own what is essentially “empty space” in a particular shape, Beshty’s created these glass boxes to highlight this value placed on empty space. Beshty’s glass sculptures can be interpreted as social commentary about on how ridiculous copyright law is.

This is an analysis using which conception of art? 

Explain why.

2. Beshty’s glass sculpture series is valuable as art because the glass boxes are visually pleasing. The transparency of the glass medium allows light to sparkle through the sculptures and the cracks cause visually-pleasing refractions of the light. The shape of the glass boxes are also visually-pleasing - like the FedEx boxes, they all have either reflectional or rotational symmetry.

This is an analysis using which conception of art?

Explain why.

3. The artistic value of Beshty’s glass sculptures are constantly changing because of how travel between exhibitions make each exhibition unique. Each additional crack in the glass sculptures represents one of the glass sculpture’s experiences being shipped to another gallery, the same way that people gain experiences and memories when they travel. This means that Beshty’s glass sculptures gain more and more meaning, and hence more and more artistic value, each time they travel.

This is an analysis using which conception of art?

Explain why.

(A) The Representational Conception of Art  (D) The Constructivist Paradigm of Art
(B) The Aesthetic Conception of Art  (E) The Expressive Conception of Art
(C) The Contextualist Paradigm of Art  (F) None of the Above
4. The artistic value of this drawing is lacking in a few key areas. First, the proportions of the individuals depicted do not reflect the proportions of human beings. The child drawn on the left is shown at approximately the same height as his parents, while the depiction of the child’s sister on the right has a height much greater than the parents. This does not reflect reality. Second, the drawing lacks the predictable gradation of tonal values associated with three dimensional objects in natural lighting - this makes the figures look flat, as opposed to three dimensional like their real-life counterparts. Third, several features associated with human subjects are missing, such as noses, and for the smaller subjects, fingers.

This is an analysis using which conception of art?

Explain why.

5. Although the formal properties of this drawing are not very accurate in terms of representing the physical characteristics of the people it aims to depict, it represents a different kind of truth - namely, the emotions that a young child (the artist) feels towards his older sister. The large size given to the figure representing his sister may represent how much attention he feels she gets within their family, or the amount of influence she has over the rest of the family. The long arm suggests that he views her as exerting control over the family, and the sharp teeth suggest that he views her control as malicious. Although the large size, the long arm and sharp teeth are not representative of her physical characteristics, they do symbolize aspects of her personality (in the view of the artist).

This is an analysis using which conception of art?

Explain why.
3 Critical Thinking Essay Question (10 pts)

Choose ONE of the following to answer in essay form.
Remember, your answer should CONVINCE me that you understand the concepts involved!

1. Is a **representational** approach to art compatible with Kant’s four criteria for an aesthetic judgement? State whether or not these are compatible, and explain why or why not.

2. Compare and contrast the **moderate** VS **radical** versions of the **constructivist conception** of art. Are these two approaches to art incompatible? Explain why or why not, and give an example as evidence for your answer.

3. Compare and contrast the **globalist/societal** VS **individual** versions of the **constructivist conception** of art. Are these two approaches to art incompatible? Explain why or why not, and give an example as evidence for your answer.

4. What are two ways to implement the **aesthetic conception** to art? What are their strengths and weaknesses? Illustrate your answer using examples.