

The Renaissance- Common Part b and c questions- sometimes worth 5/10/15 marks

1. Discuss the High Renaissance period – *see first notes received on renaissance*
2. How did the work of Leonardo/ Michelangelo/ Raphael contribute to the High Renaissance?

One of the greatest of Old Masters in the history of art, **Leonardo da Vinci** excelled as a painter, sculptor, engineer, architect and scientist. Along with Michelangelo (1475-1564) and Raphael (Raffaello Santi) (1483-1520), he is considered to be one of the three great creators of High Renaissance art in Italy (1490-1530). Renowned as a master of oil painting, including the painterly techniques of **chiaroscuro** (use of shadow to create a 3-D effect) and **sfumato** both techniques are visible in his masterpiece, *Mona Lisa*. Unfortunately, Leonardo's creative gifts were so diverse that he completed only a handful of artistic projects. Even so, he was responsible for several masterpieces of Renaissance art, including the *Mona Lisa* (1503-6, oil on panel, Louvre), one of the greatest portrait paintings; *Vitruvian Man* (1492), arguably the world's best known drawing; and *The Last Supper* (1495-8, oil and tempera fresco, Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan), one of the best known Biblical paintings of all time. Sadly only a fraction of his art survives (about 15 pictures in all), not least because of his thirst for (often disastrous) experimentation with new paint techniques. Even so, these few paintings, together with a number of sketchbooks crammed with examples of figure drawing (including some of the best drawings of the Renaissance), plus anatomical **studies**, **scientific diagrams**, and his views on the techniques and aesthetics of painting, comprise a legacy rivalled only by Michelangelo. With an established reputation as one of the Best Portrait Artists and also one of the Best History Painters, Leonardo is considered by most art experts to be one of the Best Artists of All Time.

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni, born in Florentine territory, was one of the three greatest Old Masters of Italian Renaissance art. His nickname - *il divino*, the divine one - was an apt illustration of his exceptional gifts as a painter, sculptor, architect and engineer. Twenty years younger than his rival Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) and eight years older than his rival Raphael (1483-1520), his extraordinary diversity of talent made him one of the great inspirational forces behind the High Renaissance. He reinvigorated the classical idea that the nude human body is a sufficient vehicle for the expression of all **emotions** which a painter can depict, a notion that had an enormous influence on the subsequent development of Academic art - and on art as a whole. Above all, he promoted the idea that **painting and sculpture merited the same status as architecture**, and that painters and sculptors were real artists, rather than mere decorators or stone masons. Michelangelo's creative output has made him one of the most scrutinized artists of the sixteenth century,

responsible for some of the greatest Renaissance paintings and also for several of the world's greatest sculptures. Several of his works, notably his statues Pieta and David, and his Genesis and Last Judgment frescos in the Sistine Chapel in Rome - are regarded as some of the most influential artistic accomplishments in the history of art. His place among the best artists of all time is assured.

Together with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, the Italian painter **Raphael** is one of the three supreme Old Masters of the High Renaissance period. He is also known as 'Il Divino' (The Divine One). Influenced by Pietro Perugino, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Masaccio and Fra Bartolomeo, he is famous for the **perfect grace** and **spatial geometry** of his High Renaissance painting and drawing. His most notable works include his frescos in the Raphael Rooms (including the *Stanza della Segnatura*) at the Palace of the Vatican - long regarded as being among the greatest Renaissance paintings - and his altarpiece compositions The Sistine Madonna (1513, Gemaldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden) and The Transfiguration (1519-20, Vatican Museum). He was also an important contributor to Renaissance **architecture**, in works like Church of St Maria, Chigi Chapel, Rome (1513), the Palazzo Pandolfini (facade), Florence (1517), and Villa Madama, Rome (begun 1518).

Donatello and Uccello are easy for this type of question as they influenced so much in terms of perspective for Uccello and realism for Donatello- look back on notes