

THE HUMANITIES: Culture, Continuity, and Change

Chapter 1 – The Fin de Siècle: Toward the Modern

What event in 1889 served as a “fitting postscript to the nineteenth century”? What does *fin de siècle* mean?

What attitudes marked the 1890s?

Why did the rise of the bourgeois middle class prove to be unsettling?

How many new devices did Thomas Edison exhibit at the Paris Exposition? What structure was the “most popular ‘exhibit’”? What was it meant to symbolize? Was it universally admired? Why or why not?

Define “art nouveau”. With what other trends was it associated? Why was it considered a transitional style?

Who was Gustav Klimt and what did he seek to do for art?

What playwright’s work expressed the fin de siècle spirit? Why were European audiences outraged?

What was the aim of Symbolists? How did Symbolism distinguish itself from naturalism? Which sculptor’s work marks the transition from realism to Symbolism?

What poet believed that a poem “was somehow hindered by the writer’s words and syntax”?

Who were les *Mardistes*? Which member of this group was responsible for *Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune*?

On what was it based?

Which painters are identified as Post-Impressionists? What was their artistic objective?

What was the label given to Georges Seurat’s style of painting? Whose theories was he trying to incorporate?

How is the mixture of pigments different than the mixture of light?

What was Van Gogh’s foremost concern?

Why did Paul Gauguin leave France for Tahiti?

What was Paul Cézanne attempting to suggest by the use of two viewpoints in *Still Life with Plaster Cast*?

Identify three characteristics of Symbolism.

Who rejected organized religion because he believed it subjected humanity to a slave morality? Which twentieth-century leader justified his actions by misconstruing that philosopher’s ideas?

How did Gustav Mahler create a jarring sense of conflict and tension in his Symphony No. 1?

What was the original title of Edvard Munch’s *The Scream*?

What were the motives of Western powers to dominate Africa at the beginning of the twentieth century?

Why did Southern Africans submit themselves to prison-like conditions working in the diamond mines?

What did Social Darwinism attempt to justify? How was Charles Darwin’s *The Descent of Man* different?

What novella examined the dehumanizing effects of colonialism?

According to Sigmund Freud, what do dreams reveal?