Shrewsbury School

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

2025 ENTRY

HISTORY OF ART

(1 Hour)

Instructions to candidates:

- There are **TWO** sections for equal marks, marks are shown in brackets
  Section 1 – Compare Figure 1 and 2 **OR** Figure 3 and 4

  Section 2 – Choose **ONE** essay

SECTION 1

In this section, answer in a comparative essay use SET A (Birth of Venus – Figure 1 and 2) **OR** Set B (Adam and Eve/The Fall Figure 3 and 4) paintings.

Figure 1 and 2 and Figures 3 and 4 are paintings which depict the same narrative.

In your comparative essay, comment on the depiction of figure and setting. Which painting is more successful, and why?

In your essay you could:

- Discuss how the artists have used colour and the application of colour.
- Consider the illusion of space and depth in each painting, how has this been achieved?
- Comment on the composition and arrangement of form.
- Consider the iconography (symbols within the painting) and evaluate how it is used to show narrative.

(20 marks)

Set A: Birth of Venus (Greek/Roman Mythology) Paintings

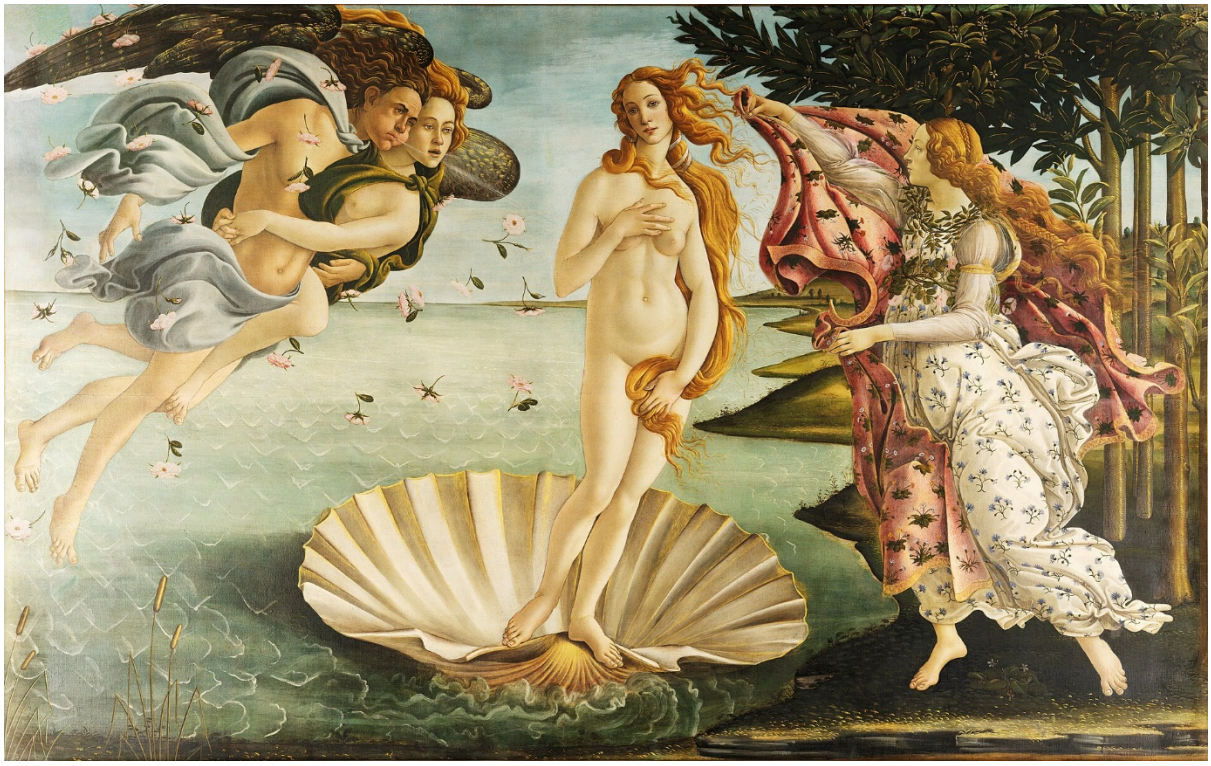

Figure 1: *The Birth of Venus, Botticelli, 1484-86, Tempera on Panel*

Figure 2: *The Birth of Venus, Cabanel, 1863, Oil on Canvas*

Set B: Adam and Eve/The Fall (Bible-Christianity)

Figure 3: *Adam and Eve, Marlena Vera,* 2017, Oil on Canvas

Figure 4: *Fall of Man, Peter Paul Rubens and Jan Brueghel the Elder, 1617, Oil on Canvas*

SECTION 2

In this section, answer **ONE** essay

1. ‘Architecture is the most important form of art’ How far do you agree?
   Consider this statement and write one essay in which you reach a justified conclusion.

2. ‘Art should be meaningful’ How far do you agree?
   Consider this statement and write one essay in which you reach a justified conclusion.

3. ‘An artist’s duty is to paint the world in a realistic way’ How far do you agree?
   Consider this statement and write one essay in which you reach a justified conclusion.

4. ‘Religious paintings and sculptures made for churches should never be removed from their original location’ How far do you agree?
   Consider this statement and write one essay in which you reach a justified conclusion.

(20 marks)