

Name:

Date:

Take Home Exam Questions:

Building the Great Cathedrals

Please answer the questions as you watch the Nova production Building the Great Cathedrals. [Video for Building the Great Cathedrals from NOVA](#)

For questions that are true and false you can highlight your choice.

1. _____ pounds of stone were used to create a Gothic Cathedral.
2. One cathedral could take as many as _____ years to build.
3. T F Not all cathedrals were stable; indeed some have even collapsed.
4. What three traditional materials were used in the Middle Ages to construct Gothic Cathedrals (and castles?)
5. T F Medieval manuscripts shown how Roman war engines were converted into a machine for lifting stone called the "squirrel cage".
6. Although mortar is used to fill the gaps between the stones, what actually holds the stone walls together?
7. What is the name of the first Gothic church to incorporate stained glass windows, impossibly thin walls, and soaring heights?
8. Abbot Suger associated his church with what Biblical structure?
9. What is Light a symbol of in Suger's mind?
10. What shape is a Romanesque arch? What is the shape of a Gothic arch?
11. What is the advantage of the pointed Gothic arch?
12. What is happening to the Amiens Cathedral that is alarming (or downright frightening to modern visitors)?
13. How are the stress points counteracted in a Gothic arch? (This is also the second Gothic innovation).
14. T F The placement of each and every stone in a Gothic arch is critical.

15. What mistake was made in the construction of the Amiens Cathedral?
16. T F Monks reinvented the Greek hydraulic hammer to be used in the creation of iron building materials.
17. What supports the ceiling in a Gothic Cathedral?
18. What is the third Gothic innovation? What does this innovation allow for?
19. What is the basic recipe for making glass? (Three items)
20. How are glasses colored?
21. What types of narratives are chosen for stained glass windows?
22. T F Stained glass windows were meant to draw the viewer out of the muck and grime of their everyday life and lift them to a heaven on earth.
23. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris measures 30 Royal feet on the bottom and 30 Royal feet on the top. What likely inspired these measurements?
24. What is the name of the “crown jewel” of Gothic cathedrals?
25. Why did medieval priests study classical scientific texts? What did they conclude about proportions?
26. What area of a Gothic cathedral was used to create the proportions of the rest of the building?
27. What is the significance of the following numbers: 50 144 60
28. How did the builders of Beauvis Cathedral exceed the height of Amiens Cathedral, even though both are based on the number 144?
29. T F The great cathedral builders built sacred spaces that still inspire today.
30. List as many characteristics for Romanesque and Gothic architecture:

Romanesque

Gothic