CALLIGRAPHY IS THE ART OF . . .

A  Coloring

B  Graphic design

C  Beautiful handwriting
Calligraphy is the art of beautiful handwriting. Writing beautifully requires great mastery of movement and timing.
CALLIGRAPHY HAS BEEN CALLED THE HIGHEST FORM OF ART IN . . .

A  Islamic cultures

B  East Asian cultures

C  None of the above

D  All of the above
Calligraphy has been considered the highest form of art in both Islamic and East Asian cultures.

**Top:** Unknown artist, Morocco, Panel with calligraphy, second half of 20th century, polyester, metallic thread, Gift of Nobuko Kajitani

**Bottom:** Ike Taiga, 1723–76, Song Zhiwen's Layered Peaks, mid-18th century, fan, mounted as hanging scroll; ink on mica paper, Gift of Stephen Addiss and Audrey Yoshiko Seo

**Answer:** D

(All of the above)
THIS ARTWORK IS AN EXAMPLE OF ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY.

A True

B False
The Arabic calligraphy on this textile is in the shape of a bird. It reads, “Oh Holy Solomon. Sanctification be upon his soul!”

Shop of Abdelkarim and Othman Ben Cherif, Panel, second half of 20th century, rayon, polyester, lurex; lampas weave, The Christina N. and Swan J. Turnblad Memorial Fund
THE CALLIGRAPHY ON THIS VASE FROM TUNISIA SHOWS A RECIPE.

A  True

B  False
Answer: B (False)

The repetitive Arabic letters on the vase reflect the repetitive chanting involved in reciting the Qur'an, the central religious text of Islām.

Khaled Ben Slimane, Tunisia, 1951, White vase (detail), 2016, Glazed ceramic, Gift of funds from Tamara and Michael Root and the Norman Gabrick Endowment for African Art © Khaled Ben Slimane
HOW DO THESE TWO ARTWORKS DIFFER?

A. They are made using different materials.

B. They are written in different styles.

C. They are written in different languages.
Answer: B (They are written in different styles.)

**Left:** The cursive script is written rapidly and mostly used for informal communication and poetry.

**Right:** The Seal Script, one of the earliest forms of Chinese calligraphy, remains the preferred style for carving seals (personal stamps) in East Asia.

*Left: Ōtagaki Rengetsu, 1791–1875, Letter to Tomioka Tessai (detail), 19th century, ink on paper, Gift of Stephen Addiss and Audrey Yoshiko Seo

*Right: Nakai Tōjū, 1608–48, Bring the Qin (detail), 17th century, hanging scroll; ink on paper, Gift of Stephen Addiss and Audrey Yoshiko Seo*
Bonus Question!

Did you know that Mia changed its logo in 2015? It’s amazing how letters can look so different depending on their design!

WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER?

A Old logo

B Current logo
Take a closer look at the artworks featured in this quiz online at artsmia.org:

“Khatt Islāmi: Sacred Scripts from Islamic Africa,” on view until August 1, 2021

“20 Dances: Japanese Calligraphy Then and Now,” on view until March 21, 2021

Explore more Family Day activities about calligraphy today!