**Question 1**
Discuss how design is a product of context. Frame your answer in the form of an essay, not a list or bullet points. Think broadly and be creative in your response.

**Question 2**
Discuss the design cultures of the Middle West. Frame your answer in the form of an essay, not a list or bullet points. Think broadly and be creative in your response.

As you study for question 1, you are encouraged to review the following topics covered in unit 1 of DSN S 183:

- how standards for beauty and good design may vary across cultures,
- the interdependence of design and politics,
- the insights of Design Thinking as a way of considering design’s contextual dependency,
- the myth of the tortured/lone genius, and
- the idea of the “wicked problem” as a problem that requires designers to think about context when devising solutions.

As you study for question 2, you are encouraged to review the following topics covered in unit 2 of DSN S 183:

- the prairie as idea and actuality,
- the role of race and culture in the settlement of the Middle West,
- the effects of railroads and other transportation forms on settlement patterns, and vice versa,
- design and water management in the Middle West,
- governmental, ceremonial and vernacular architectural forms of the Middle West,
- the influence of world’s fairs and international expositions on the development of the Midwest as an idea,
- art and design objects in and about the prairie,
- agriculture and design,
- sustainability/resilience in the designed spaces of the Middle West, and
- the presence and influence of Iowa State University in the designed spaces of the Middle West.