1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

191. THE ARDABIL CARPET  
Artist: Maqsud of Kashan  
1539-1540 CE

2. FORM: (use of design elements/principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

25 million knots (very detailed), 35 feet long and 18 feet wide, central medallion surrounded by 16 pendants, no figural art, 2 mosque lamps

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Silk and Wool

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Creates an illusion of a heavenly dome, as seen in mosques  
Islamic iconography

5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/SITE/INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Carpets were highly prized and had many functions: decoration, warmth, to be traded..  
Made for a shrine of Safi al-Din Ardabili, a Sufi saint

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); PATRON/AUDIENCE (who was it made for?); ARTIST’S DECISION MAKING:

Made for a shrine (religious purposes)  
Made to show importance of Islam

7. INNOVATION/CHANGE(S):  

Carpets would become very important to Islam as they were highly prized  

CONVENTION/TRADITION(S):

Geometric patterns, references to mosques

8. THEME(S):

funerary

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Votive Statues, these pieces were included in important shrines of the deceased and reflect their respective patron’s beliefs, despite being completely different in medium and type of art.