

# Comprehension



## INSTRUCTIONS



**YOU HAVE 9 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION.**

**YOU HAVE 10 QUESTIONS TO COMPLETE WITHIN THE TIME GIVEN.**

## EXAMPLES

### Comprehension Example

Some people choose to start their Christmas shopping early in October. It has been reported that some people even buy their Christmas presents in the sales in August. In recent years, people have had the option of purchasing their Christmas presents online.

#### Example 1

According to the passage, what is the earliest that people start their Christmas shopping?

- A** In the preceding summer
- B** In the preceding October
- C** In the preceding November
- D** Christmas Eve
- E** In early December

The correct answer is A. This has already been marked in Example 1 in the Comprehension section of your answer sheet.

#### Practice Question 1

In recent years, what has caused a change in how people shop?

- A** There are more shops.
- B** Shops are more crowded.
- C** You can easily organise your journey to the shops.
- D** New products are available.
- E** There has been a rise in use of the Internet.

The correct answer is E. Please mark this in Practice Question 1 in the Comprehension section of your answer sheet.

**STOP AND WAIT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS**



Read the following passage and then answer the questions below.

## The History of Art

Art has always been part of society. Even as far back as prehistoric times, early modern humans (Homo sapiens) were expressing their thoughts, beliefs and feelings by producing cave art. There are many examples of Palaeolithic cave art. The finest known example can be found in a cave in Lascaux, in South West France. The vast network of caves is believed to be just under 18,000 years old. The drawings and paintings mainly include the animals which lived in the area at that time. Human figures and other abstract images are also depicted. Visitors are now unable to see the real examples, as the cave is closed to allow the cave art to be preserved. Since 2001, visitors have only been able to visit a replica of the caves.

Other civilisations have expressed their art in different mediums. We have many fragmented examples of hand-crafted sculptures from the Ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians. These civilisations also expressed themselves through their monumental architecture. Their public buildings were built on a huge scale and were originally, beautifully embellished. Much of this embellishment has now vanished. However, the beauty of these buildings can still be seen, both in the design of the building, and in some small remaining fragments of the decoration.

Much later during the Renaissance period, a new artistic movement, originating in Italy, swept through Western Europe. One characteristic of this movement was the introduction of perspective into works of art. However, the key feature of this new style was 'chiaroscuro', which means 'light' and 'dark'. This gave new emphasis to the illusion of three-dimensional figures, in contrast to the two-dimensional figures that had preceded this period. Figures were more realistic, making them almost lifelike.

Art attracts the interest of communities and individuals. Many wealthy individuals have extensive art collections, which are an expression of their passion for art. Many also buy art as an investment, in the hope that the value of their purchase will rise.

Over the past 30 years, there has been a gradual realisation that art can be beneficial to the community as a whole. In some cases, redevelopment projects now include a piece of 'public art'. This is often a large sculpture, sited in a prominent position to enhance the environment.

Modern art attracts much controversy. Some hold the view that the art of the 21st century should not be viewed as art. Many commentators say that the installations are merely there to attract the attention of the media. Many sculptures are also considered grotesque and in bad taste. However, many of the most successful artists over the centuries have been those who pushed the boundaries, and who initially attracted controversy.

- 1 How old is the cave at Lascaux?
- A Less than 10,000 years old
  - B Over 20,000 years old
  - C Less than 20,000 years old
  - D More than 30,000 years old
  - E Less than 8,000 years old



- 2 Which phrase best describes the art at Lascaux?
- A Many sculptures of human figures are found at the site
  - B There are no paintings of animals
  - C The vast majority are paintings of caves
  - D There are many sculptures of animals
  - E The vast majority of the paintings are of animals
- 3 Why are the caves now closed to the public?
- A To allow the caves to be preserved
  - B To allow for more visitors to attend
  - C To allow for restoration of the area
  - D To allow for more time to visit the caves
  - E To allow for more replicas to be made
- 4 What evidence remains of the art from the ancient civilisations of Rome, Egypt and Greece?
- A Decorations from small sculptures
  - B Small buildings and paintings
  - C Large sculptures only
  - D Fragments of sculptures and large buildings
  - E Beautifully embellished clothing
- 5 Where did the Renaissance start?
- A In Italy
  - B In Rome
  - C In England
  - D In Egypt
  - E In Eastern Europe
- 6 Why did the Renaissance have such an impact on painting techniques?
- A Paintings emphasised two-dimensional figures
  - B Paintings looked more realistic
  - C Portraits of people were no longer painted
  - D Paintings were now only produced in colour
  - E Paintings were only produced in black and white

