

Select Readings, Second Edition

Upper-Intermediate, Chapter 11 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Appreciating Art

Throughout history, the collection and appreciation of art has mainly been the realm of the intellectual elite and the very rich. The average person quite often finds the art world a mysterious and daunting place. However, art can actually be found and appreciated on a daily basis. You simply need to know where to look and what to look for.

Most people are so caught up in the details of their daily grind, that they fail to stop and appreciate the things around them. Taking a little time each day to appreciate art and learn the history of the art around us can be a relaxing and rewarding part of everyone's life.

So, what is art?

Art—especially fine art—can be thought of as anything that has been created specifically for aesthetic¹ purposes. Art generally relates to emotion and sensation, and is appreciated for its beauty the way it makes us feel. Fine art can come in the forms of sculpture, painting, drawing, graphics, and even architecture.

When it comes to appreciating fine art, there is no right or wrong. We have all heard the expression, 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.' Well, this especially holds true when it comes to looking at art.

Then how do I recognize real 'fine art'?

When fine art is viewed, it will often fill you with a very powerful emotion. It may bring a smile to your face, a feeling of joy, or even a tear to your eye. Fine artwork has a way of drawing you in. You may become engrossed with the spectacle of it, and find that it is almost as if a spell had been cast on you. A piece of art that touches your emotions will stick with you for a long time afterwards.

Beauty, however, is not a defining characteristic of fine art. Even something that disgusts you might be considered a piece of fine art. Whenever you see a piece of fine art, you will be able to recognize it by the strong emotions you feel upon encountering it.

Where do I view all this fine art?

The great thing about art is that it is all around us. Our cities and towns are filled with wonderful examples of architecture, paintings, sculpture, and especially graphic design. The best way to appreciate art on a daily basis is simply to look for it. When you spot something that catches your attention, take the time to stop for a moment and really take it in. Think about the time and effort that the artist or architect put into creating the piece. Enjoy all there is to look at, and if you have the time, research more about the history of the things you see.

¹ **aesthetic** giving pleasure through beauty

Try to make finding and appreciating whatever you consider to be fine art a lifelong hobby. Slow down and enjoy the beauty that makes up our lives. Your life will be richer for it.

1. What is the main idea of the article?
 - A. Art has traditionally only been appreciated by the rich and elite.
 - B. Art is everywhere; you just have to know where to look.
 - C. Most people don't stop to look at art in their lives.
 - D. Most intellectuals have always known how to appreciate art.
2. According to the author, what are some of the benefits of appreciating art?
 - A. It can be relaxing and rewarding.
 - B. It can make you smarter.
 - C. It can be very mysterious.
 - D. It can help you feel emotional.
3. All of the following are mentioned as forms of fine art except _____.
 - A. painting
 - B. sculpture
 - C. architecture
 - D. pottery
4. Which of the following phrases from the reading contains an analogy?
 - A. The average person quite often finds the art world a mysterious and daunting place.
 - B. It may bring a smile to your face, a feeling of joy, or even a tear to your eye.
 - C. You may become engrossed with the spectacle of it, and find that it is almost as if a spell had been cast on you.
 - D. When you spot something that catches your attention, take the time to stop for a moment and really take it in.
5. Which of the following statements is true, according to the reading?
 - A. There's generally one accepted way to recognize fine art.
 - B. You should avoid the wrong ways of looking at art.
 - C. Finding beauty depends on your eyesight.
 - D. There isn't any correct way to look at art.
6. All of the following are mentioned as characteristics of fine art except _____.
 - A. it can make you cry
 - B. it is made to express beauty
 - C. it can make you feel joy
 - D. it will stick in your memory for a long time
7. The expression 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. Everyone sees beauty in art.
 - B. Art is more beautiful if you are closer to it.
 - C. Everyone sees art differently.
 - D. Artists help people understand what is beautiful.
8. If you find a piece of art you like, the author suggests you should _____.
 - A. contact the artist to let him/her know
 - B. stop and take a picture of it
 - C. spend at least an hour with it
 - D. try to research the history of the piece
9. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that the author thinks appreciating art _____.
 - A. is something people should try to do every day
 - B. takes time away from people's everyday routines
 - C. can make people richer
 - D. is more worthwhile when a person is older

10. The author's purpose in writing the article is to _____.
- A. encourage people to appreciate art that is all around them
 - B. explain his own definition of fine art
 - C. persuade people to study art history
 - D. point out that more and more people appreciate art nowadays