**Lesson 1 - Humanities and the Arts**

**Humanities:** are academic disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture. In the Renaissance, the term contrasted with divinity and referred to what is now called **classics**

* The humanities include the study of ancient and modern languages, literature, philosophy, history, archeology, anthropology, human geography, law, politics, religion and art.
* Scholars in the humanities are "humanity scholars" or humanists. The term "humanist" also describes the philosophical position of humanism, which some "anti-humanist" scholars in the humanities reject. The Renaissance scholars and artists were also called **humanists.**
* The study of humanities may also be attributed to the symmetry and balance discussed by the art piece known as **the Vitruvian Man** of Leonardo da Vinci.

**Why Study Humanities?**

* Humans have the characteristics of rationality, benevolence and care, he is cultured and refined as shown by good tastes and manner indicative of good and proper education
* Humanities contains the records of man’s quest for answers to the fundamental questions he asks himself and about the world we live in
* Humanities studies man and the manner in which he conducts himself from the time of his existence to the present (Martin & Jacobus, 2004)
* Humanities is composed of academic disciplines that make it distinctive in both content and method from the physical and biological sciences and from the social sciences
* The study of Humanities is devoted to understanding the different phenomena within the human cultural contexts
* Humanities studies how people process and document the human experience using philosophy, religion, literature, art and history as their way of understanding and recording the world
* Humanities studies how individuals’ manner of expression varies as they record human experiences and how the way of documenting these forms a connection between and among humans of the past, present and future.

**Fundamental Principles of Humanities**

1. Human nature is inherently good.
2. Individuals are free and are capable of making choices.
3. Human potential for growth and development is virtually unlimited.
4. Self-concept plays an important role in growth and development.
5. Individuals have an urge for self actualization.
6. Reality is defined by each person.
7. Individuals have a responsibility to both themselves and to others.

**Art Explained**

**Art:** a diverse range of human activities in creating visual, auditory or performing artifacts (artworks), expressing the author's imaginative, conceptual ideas, or technical skill, intended to be appreciated for their beauty or emotional power.

* The three classical branches of art are **painting, sculpture and architecture**. Music, theater, film, dance and other performing arts as well as literature and other media such as interactive media, are included in a broader definition of the arts.

**Nature of the Arts**

1. Art or arts is of Aryan root “ar” which means to join or put together and has its Latin term being “sars” or “artis” which means everything that is artificially made or composed by man
2. **Art constitutes** one of the oldest and most important means of expression developed by man.
3. It refers to the skillful arrangement or composition of some common but significant qualities of nature such as sounds, colors, lines, movements, words, stone and wood to express feelings, thoughts, imaginations and dreams in an amazing, meaningful and enjoyable way. (Adams, 2002)
4. **Art is subjective** as it employs the use of perception, insights, feelings and intuition
5. It is the heightened expression of human dignity and weaknesses felt and shared so powerfully in a world increasingly aware of its successes and failures
6. It is man’s expression of himself as an individual and how he views his existence, and
7. Art also provides enjoyment and stimulation specially when people understand them

**Functions of Art**

1. Express freely oneself;
2. Socially express his need for display, celebration and communication; and
3. Physically express the need for utility of functional objects.

**The Forms of Art Differentiated**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Functional art forms  (the need for life to be better) | non- functional art forms  ( the need to express aesthetics and beauty) |
| Architecture,weaving, furniture-making | painting, sculpture, literature, |
|  | music, dance and theater |

**Functional Art Forms**: are those which may benefit the cause of man’s existence. They are art forms which give people sustenance as to need for life to be better.

* **Functional art** is generally **applied art** - art created for use, not necessarily everyday use, but designed to serve a purpose and with an aesthetic in mind.
* It's **art** that serves a function, but is designed artistically for the purpose of beauty. They meet a need for use, and are works of art as well.

**Nonfunctional** **art:** is art that serves noutilitarian purpose. It is in direct contrast with functional art, which has both an aesthetic value and a utilitarian purpose.

* **Nonfunctional art** also encompasses paintings, sculptures and all manner of fine art. These pieces usually seek to engage with the viewer on an intellectual, emotional or aesthetic level. The exploration of these sensibilities, rather than their utilitarian merits, determines the artworks' worth.

**Lesson 2 – Arts and Philosophy**

**Philosophy:** is a field of discipline which has attempted to explain almost all aspects of human existence. Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language.

**Aesthetics**: on the other hand, is the study of beauty and taste, concerned with the nature of art and used as a basis for interpreting and evaluating individual works of art. It is a branch of philosophy that deals with the nature of **beauty and taste**, as well as the philosophy of art.

**Artistic Philosopher**

**Plato** ( 428 – 347 BC) is a philosopher of Ancient Greece who is known for his Dialogues together with Socrates.

* He believed that “ though arts can be used to train citizens to have an ideal society, using arts to accomplish this should be strictly controlled”.
* He also explained that the physical world is a copy of a perfect, rational, eternal and changeless original which he called **FORMS**.

**Aristotle** ( 384 – 322 BC) was a student of Plato who first distinguished between “what is good and what is beautiful''. For him, the universal elements of beauty are manifested by order, symmetry and definiteness.

* He stated that physical manifestation of beauty is affected by **SIZE**. He considered art as imitation or a representation of nature and his emphasis of the art is on **POETRY** which for him is more philosophical than Philosophy itself.

**Immanuel Kant** (1724 – 1804) was a German, Enlightenment philosopher who wrote a treatise on Aesthetics: Observations on the Feelings of the Beautiful and the Sublime.

* His main interest was not on art but on **BEAUTY** that it is a matter of **TASTE**. Kant explained that TASTE can be both **SUBJECTIVE** and **UNIVERSAL**.

**Art vs Artist**

**Artist**: is a person engaged in an activity related to creating art, practicing the

arts, or demonstrating an art. The common usage in both everyday speech and academic discourse is a practitioner in the visual arts only.

**Artisan**: is a skilled craft worker who makes or creates things by hand that may be functional or strictly decorative, for example furniture, decorative arts, sculptures, clothing, jewellery, food items, household items and tools or even mechanisms such as the handmade clockwork movement of a watchmaker.

**The Art Forms**

**Architecture:** Architecture is an art form that reflects how we present ourselves across the earth’s landscape, and, like other expressive mediums, it changes with styles, technologies and cultural adaptations. Architecture is considered as the most functional of all art forms.

**Sculpture**: an artistic form in which hard or plastic materials are worked into three-dimensional art objects. The designs may be embodied in freestanding objects, in reliefs on surfaces, or in environments ranging from tableaux to contexts that envelop the spectator.

**Painting**: Painting is the application of pigments to a support surface that establishes an image, design or decoration. In art the term “painting” describes both the act and the result.

**Dance**: Dance is the movement of the body in a rhythmic way, usually to music and within a given space, for the purpose of expressing an idea or emotion, releasing energy, or simply taking delight in the movement itself.

**Music:** Music is an art form, and cultural activity, whose medium is sound. General definitions of music include common elements such as pitch (which 18 governs melody and harmony), rhythm (and its associated concepts tempo, meter, and articulation), dynamics (loudness and softness), and the sonic qualities of timbre and texture (which are sometimes termed the "color" of a musical sound).

**Theater**: Theatre or theater is a collaborative form of performing art that uses live performers, typically actors or actresses, to present the experience of a real or imagined event before a live audience in a specific place, often a stage.

**Literature**: Literature, most generically, is anybody or collection of written work. More restrictively, literature refers to writing considered to be an art form or any single writing deemed to have artistic or intellectual value, and sometimes deploys language in ways that differ from ordinary usage.

**Appreciating the Arts**

1. Give a good physical description of the artwork based on their knowledge of art elements and materials;
2. Analyze the artwork in terms of what the artist wants his work to represent and the learner’s subjective reaction to the works which includes their thoughts and feelings;
3. Perceive the art work in the context of its history. This would enlighten the learners of the artist’s intention in doing the work and add to the understanding of the meaning the work is supposed to convey;
4. Give meaning to the artwork based on its description, analysis and context; and
5. Judge the artwork as to whether it is good or bad based on the learner’s perception of it and its aesthetic and cultural value.

**YUNIT II**

**Lesson 1 - The Subject of An Artwork**

The term **subject** in arts refers to the main idea that is represented in the artwork. The subject in art is basically the **essence** of the piece.

**Representational Art** is a term that generally refers to a painting or sculpture that is clearly recognizable for what it claims to be. It references images such as a human form or a tree, and although these images may not always be portrayed as true to life in color or position, they are still recognizable to the viewer. It is also referred to as **Figurative Art**, being that it is derived from real object sources. Oftentimes, representational artists act as observers, and interpret what they see in their own way through their work.

**Non-representational or non-objective art**, on the other hand, refers to compositions which do not rely on representation or mimesis to any extent. Abstract art, non-figurative art, nonobjective art, and nonrepresentational art are related terms that indicate a departure from reality in the depiction of imagery in art. Generally, we can look at non-representational art as the **personal expression of an artist's subjective experience**. Certain movements have described their intentions as an aim to evoke moods or emotions in the viewer.

**Lesson 2: The Sources of Subject**

**Nature:** Nature, in the broadest sense, is equivalent to the natural world, physical universe, material world or material universe. “Nature” refers to the phenomena of the physical world, and also to life in general.” It is considered the most commonly used source of art.

**People:** They are considered the most interesting subject of an artwork which may be real or imagined. An artist’s thoughts, moods and even the genre of a certain art work may be depicted by people by means of clues as takeaways. People as subjects may be presented as individuals or groups and may perform tasks as how they do in their everyday life. Below are a few examples.

**History**: It is the depiction of factual events that occurred in the past whose purpose is either to remember important events of long ago or to teach the learners about the lessons of the past.

**Legends**: Artworks based on legends present to viewers of the art something tangible even when unverified. Art brings life to these stories.

**Religion**: has played an enormous role in inspiring works of visual arts, music, architecture and literature through ages. Artists used as inspiration the religious texts as the Bible, Quran and Torah in conveying their ideas and beliefs through their art works. It was also established that art is considered the handmaid of religion.

**Mythology:** These are sources of subjects that come from the stories of gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece, Rome, Norse and Egyptians. These so-called deities of the mythological world depict present humanlike behaviors

**Dreams and Fantasy:** The wonder of the unconscious is what is being expressed by art works under this subject source. These works of art somehow explain to the viewers the content of the art piece including the hidden meaning behind each work. The unconscious is being made to be understood by this source of subject.

**Technology**: The modernity of the present is also an inspiration being used by artists as a source of subject. The wondrous use of machines, the towering skyscrapers, state of the art robotics technology, top of the line transportation machineries as cars, ships and motorcycles to name a few are sources of subjects of interest under technology.

**Lesson 3: Ways of Presenting the Subject**

**Naturalism**. Naturalism in art refers to the depiction of realistic objects in a natural setting. The Realist movement of the 19th century advocated naturalism in reaction to the stylized and idealized depictions of subjects in Romanticism, but many painters have used a similar approach over the centuries.

**Realism.** Realism in the arts is generally the attempt to represent subject matter truthfully, without artificiality and avoiding speculative fiction and supernatural elements. Realism has been prevalent in the arts at many periods, and can be in large part a matter of technique and training, and the avoidance of stylization. In the visual arts, illusionistic realism is the accurate depiction of lifeforms, perspective, and the details of light and colour.

**Abstraction**. Abstraction finds its roots in ‘intuition’ (of the artist) and ‘freedom’ (for the artist as well as for the viewer). It is the capability of the artist to use their imagination to look beyond what we can physically see and translate intangible emotions onto the canvas. It is also the ability of the audience to then try to connect to the artist’s intention and free their own mind of visual restrictions.

1. **Distortion**. Distortion is the alteration of the original shape (or other characteristic) of something. In the art world, a distortion is any change made by an artist to the size, shape or visual character of a form to express an idea, convey a feeling or enhance visual impact.
2. **Elongation**. Elongation is when the art subject is lengthened, protracted or extended.
3. **Mangling**. Artists show the subject as cut, lacerated, mutilated or hacked with repeated blows.
4. **Cubism**. This is the presentation of abstract figures through the use of a cone, cylinder, sphere, triangle, square, cube and circle in place of real pictorial elements.

**Symbolism**. This is the use of a visible sign of an idea to convey to the viewers, readers or audiences the message of his work. In this way, mystery is advocated by an art work making it more interesting to the viewers. The key to eliciting symbolic art involves studying the background and personality of the artist and his inspiration in producing the said piece of work.

**Fauvism**. Fauvism is the name applied to the work produced by a group of artists (which included Henri Matisse and André Derain) from around 1905 to 1910, which is characterised by strong colours and fierce brushwork.

**Dadaism**. Dadaism is a protest movement in the art that is playful and experimental. “Dada” means a “hobby horse”. Dadaism is most often nonsensical. Marcel Duchamp is the famous painter using this method. It is considered a revolt against tradition because it does not follow the principles in art and shows the wickedness of society in its presentation. The aim of this method is to shock and provoke its viewers.

**Futurism**. This was developed in Italy about the same time as cubism appeared in France. Futurist painters wanted their works to capture the mechanical energy of modern life.

**Surrealism**. This method mirrors the evils of the present society. Surrealism means super realism, influenced by Freudian psychology which emphasizes the activities of the subconscious state of the mind. The art movement began in Paris in 1924 by the French poet Andre Breton. It emphasized the activities of the subconscious mind mostly

exemplifying violence and cruelty. The surrealist’s aim is to reveal the deep and ugly part of human nature.

**Expressionism**. This features art works describing pathos, morbidity, chaos or even defeat and was introduced in Germany from 1900 – 1910. Expressionists believe that man needs spiritual rebirth for him to correct defects that ruin the society.