

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14–26**, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

Why do we need the arts?

Sometimes people question why we need ‘the arts’; what functions do art, music, dance and literature serve?

- A** Imagine a world in which people spend hours working in offices or factories, and then go home in the evening to sit down to dinner, after which they sleep until it's time to get up and work again. In this world, people do not read or watch TV, listen to music, play computer games or have pictures to decorate their homes. In fact, there are no pictures in this world—not even advertisements are illustrated, but all are words, and very plain ones at that, with no playfulness left in them. The buildings are completely functional without a single decorative feature anywhere, and there is no music to dance to and enjoy. Such a world is a world without the arts in any form.
- B** To ask what the arts are good for is not exactly the same as asking what their purpose is. The arts do not have to have a purpose—they do not exist in order to teach, to make a moral point, to entertain, to distract, to amuse, to support a revolution, to disgust, to challenge, to stimulate or to cheer; they exist chiefly for their own sake. It is artists, not the arts as such, that may have an aim in mind, and their aim may be to do any of the things just listed. But equally, artists may just make a work of art because they feel compelled to. Because the work is its own justification, no aim or goal is necessarily required to explain or, still less, to justify its existence.
- C** But to say that the arts do not have to serve an aim beyond themselves, even though they may sometimes do so, is not to say that they are good for nothing. On the contrary, as such an important part of human experience, they are good for many things. The distinction here lies between things that are instrumental and things that are ends in themselves. An instrument exists for something beyond itself—namely, for what it can be used to do. We know that pictures are used as instruments in advertising, and the objective is always to persuade us to buy something. Similarly, music can be written chiefly to accompany dancing, or as a soundtrack to a movie. A play can be written to point out to the theatre audience a social injustice or other problems that should be dealt with. But even though the arts can sometimes be instrumental, that fact is not essential to their nature. What the arts are ‘good for’ arises from their being an end in themselves, or more accurately, representing many different things that are valuable for their own sakes—such as, for instance, the creation of beauty.

- D** The phrase ‘the arts’ includes painting, sculpture, music, literature, dance and theatre performance, and whatever else (to quote the famous US artist Andy Warhol) anyone can get away with in calling their creation a contribution to ‘the arts’. But the generalisation that the arts, whatever else they are, are always an end in themselves, applies to them all. The arts are one major form of response to the world. They are often an attempt to capture an aspect of the world, to draw attention to something about it, to comment on it, to present a surprising or fresh angle on it, to represent it for the sake of exploring something about it, or enjoying or celebrating it. They can help people to focus on, for example, the colour or shape of an object, its eccentricity or typicality, and the interest or perhaps disgust it provokes in them.
- E** For a loose comparison, think of laughing at a joke. We do not laugh so that we can achieve a further goal—in order to be healthy or relaxed, say, even if we thereby succeed in being healthier or more relaxed—but simply because the joke has elicited that reaction. But although it is merely a reaction, laughing is, in fact, good for something nevertheless; it does make people feel better. The arts are a reaction in the same way. French artist Cézanne painted *Mont Sainte-Victoire* repeatedly because he was fascinated by it, not because he thought that painting it would say something about politics or society or human hopes. Being fascinated by something, attracted to it, repelled by it, keen to reveal an unusual aspect of it, are all responses to that thing; the making of the arts is one outstanding way of expressing such responses.
- F** But the arts are a response not only to things in the world but also to experience of the world, which lies inside the artist himself. And they are also often an expression of what presses from within the artist without being elicited by externals. Music is a prime example. A symphony, unless it is devised to represent bird song, rain, the sea and the like, is an abstract expression of a composer’s conception. We may be able to describe what the Russian composer Tchaikovsky is doing in his ballet music, but how can we describe what he is expressing in his piano concertos? Composers may experiment with melody and rhythm in very abstract, sometimes mathematical, ways.
- G** When artists get to work responding to and expressing ideas, whether or not they also want to make a point, entertain, distract, support a revolution and the rest, they are producing something that someone else will react to in some way. They seek to connect with their audience and express an idea or emotion which has the capacity to enrich our experience of life itself.

Questions 14–18

Reading Passage 2 has seven paragraphs, **A–G**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A–G**, in boxes 14–18 on your answer sheet.

- 14** a claim that artists may have no clear objective when creating a piece of art
- 15** a description of how artists hope to benefit other people
- 16** a comparison between the arts and things made to perform a particular function
- 17** a claim that it's possible to convince the world that anything you have made is a work of art
- 18** an example of something that has an unintentional benefit for us

Questions 19–22

Complete the summary below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 19–22 on your answer sheet.

The arts and human experience

Some people may claim that the arts serve no useful purpose, that they achieve nothing measurable and help nobody. But there are many clear examples of their usefulness, such as the interdependent relationship between music and **19** _____, or between the visual arts and the **20** _____ business. A dramatist may use a **21** _____ to draw our attention to various issues in society, for example some kind of injustice which needs correcting. Apart from these obvious practical benefits, there are other benefits that we gain from things, such as the **22** _____ we find in an artist's work.

Questions 23 and 24

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 23 and 24 on your answer sheet.

In paragraph D, which **TWO** of the following effects does the writer say the arts can have?

- A** They can interest people from all over the world.
- B** They can make us see things from a different perspective.
- C** They can inspire us to take up an artistic activity ourselves.
- D** They can encourage us to think about our reactions to things around us.
- E** They can draw our attention to serious global issues.

Questions 25 and 26

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 25 and 26 on your answer sheet.

Which **TWO** of the following statements about composers and music does the writer make?

- A** Music tends to spring from the composer's individual experiences.
- B** Composers need to structure music very carefully.
- C** Music can be quite unrelated to the natural world.
- D** Music finds its best expression in a symphony.
- E** Composers are good at depicting the world around us.

段落匹配 (14–18)

题号	答案	精确定位 (原文要点)	解释
14	B	第B段末: “artists may just make a work of art because they feel compelled... no aim or goal is necessarily required to justify its existence.”	明确指出艺术家创作时可能没有清晰目的。
15	G	第G段末: “They seek to connect with their audience ... which has the capacity to enrich our experience of life.”	描述艺术家希望给他人带来好处 (与受众连接、丰富生命体验)。
16	C	第C段前半: “distinction between things that are instrumental and things that are ends in themselves.”	把艺术与“为特定功能而做的东西”对比: 艺术本质上是目的本身。
17	D	第D段开头引用安迪·沃霍尔: “anyone can get away with calling their creation a contribution to ‘the arts’.”	说明几乎任何东西都能被说成是艺术。
18	E	第E段前半: 我们不是为达成健康 / 放松而笑, 但 “laughing... makes people feel better.”	“笑”带来非本意的益处; 用来类比艺术。

摘要填空 (19–22)

每空一词, 取自原文

题号	答案	精确定位 (原文要点)	解释
19	dancing	第C段中部: “music can be written chiefly to accompany dancing.”	强调音乐与舞蹈的相互依存。
20	advertising	第C段中部: “pictures are used as instruments in advertising.”	视觉艺术与广告行业的联系。
21	play	第C段中后: “A play can be written to point out... a social injustice.”	剧家用戏剧引起社会关注。
22	beauty	第C段末: “valuable for their own sakes—such as... the creation of beauty.”	除实用外, 还从艺术中获得美。

多选题 (23–24)—段落 D

题号	答案	精确定位 (原文要点)	解释
23	B	第D段中部: “to present a surprising or fresh angle on it.”	艺术使我们以不同视角看事物。
24	D	第D段末: “help people to focus on... and the interest or perhaps disgust it provokes in them.”	鼓励我们思考自己对周围事物的反应。(A/C/E均未在D段出现或未限定为“全球/严肃议题/激励我们去从事艺术”。)

多选题 (25–26)—作曲家与音乐

题号	答案	精确定位 (原文要点)	解释
25	A	第F段前半: “a response to experience of the world which lies inside the artist himself... an expression of what presses from within the artist.”	音乐常源自作曲家个人内在体验。
26	C	第F段中部: “A symphony... is an abstract expression... Composers may experiment... in very abstract, sometimes mathematical, ways.”	音乐可以与自然界不直接相关, 而是抽象表达。