Alba Chouza Cruces

***Portfolio Unit 8***

In this unit, we studied an overview of the twentieth century historical and cultural background. In this century people believed that human decisions could change the world through the imposition of a political system, and totalitarianism was an expression of this.

It took place the First World War that proved the destructive effects of the technology and industry, and some writers like Virginia Wolf tried to show the physiological effects it produced.

Moreover, we learned that at the beginning of the century the printing press was the principal way of spreading ideas, but mass media also became fundamental elements in the production of culture.

Talking about the economic order there was an organized capitalism, and it is very important as we still maintain it.

Furthermore, the principal genres and movements were the Edwardians (between 1900 and 1914, roughly coinciding with Edward VII’s reign), Georgians (George V’s reign from 1910 to 1936), the modernists (imagism, vorticism and modernism), the theatre of the absurd and the Post-Modernism.

Finally a possible question for the exam could be:

What is the main difference between the Modernists and the Avant-gardists?

The principal difference is their attitude towards the institution of art, as the Avant-gardists also criticised the cultural institution of art itself, and “The Fountain” of Marcel Duchamp which is an inverted urinal, became a representation of this attitude.