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Reading Practice 1 (low level)



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Part A

Reading Text 1 and answer questions 1-21

Text 1

建議時間:

S5-S6: 30mins

S3-S4: 40mins

The Rise of Postmodernism in Art

[1] In recent years, a new movement has been gaining traction in the art world: Postmodernism. This movement emerges as a response to the skepticism and irony that characterized Postmodernism. While Postmodernism questioned grand narratives and embraced a fragmented view of reality, Postmodernism seeks to reconstruct meaning and address the human condition with sincerity. Postmodernism also aims to move beyond the cynicism and detachment that defined much of Postmodern art. Instead, it embraces a renewed sense of purpose and emotional engagement, encouraging artists to explore deep, existential themes and connect with their audiences on a more profound level. The movement's proponents believe that by reintroducing sincerity and authenticity into their work, artists can foster a more meaningful and impactful cultural dialogue. Postmodernism, therefore, represents not only a shift in artistic style but also a broader cultural shift towards seeking genuine connections and understanding in a fragmented world.

[2] The origins of Postmodernism can be traced back to the early 21st century. Artists and critics alike began to express a desire for a more grounded and meaningful approach to art. They argued that the irony and pastiche of Postmodernism had led to a cultural dead end, where nothing could be taken seriously. In contrast, Postmodernism emphasizes authenticity, emotional depth, and the search for universal truths. This desire for change was fueled by a growing discontent with the superficiality and trivialization of important cultural and social issues. Artists felt a need to respond to the complexities of the modern world with a new form of expression that could address these issues with the seriousness and respect they deserved. This shift was not only a reaction against the past but also an embrace of a future where art could play a pivotal role in shaping societal values and personal identities.

[3] A prominent example of Postmodernism is the work of British artist Tracey Emin. Emin's installations and autobiographical pieces convey raw emotion and personal experience, inviting viewers to connect with the artwork on a profound level. Similarly, American artist Kehinde Wiley challenges historical narratives by reinterpreting classical portraits with contemporary subjects, thus bridging the gap between past and present.

[4] Critics of Postmodernism argue that it risks falling into the trap of naïveté and oversimplification. They caution that the search for sincerity and truth can lead to a new form of dogmatism. However, proponents believe that this movement is essential for reinvigorating the arts and providing a counterbalance to the cynicism that has pervaded contemporary culture.

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[5] Postmodernism does not outright reject the principles of Postmodernism but rather builds upon them. For example, it maintains a critical stance towards grand narratives but seeks to find a balance by reintroducing elements of storytelling and emotional engagement. This nuanced approach allows for a more holistic understanding of art and its impact on society.

[6] In literature, Postmodernism has influenced writers to create works that, while acknowledging the fragmented nature of reality, strive to find coherence and meaning. Authors such as David Foster Wallace and Zadie Smith exemplify this trend. Wallace's novel "Infinite Jest" explores themes of addiction and entertainment in a complex narrative structure, while Smith's "White Teeth" addresses multiculturalism and identity in modern Britain.

[7] The rise of digital media has also played a significant role in the development of Postmodernism. The internet and social media platforms have created new avenues for artists to express themselves and reach a global audience. This democratization of art has allowed for a diverse range of voices and perspectives to be heard, further enriching the movement.

[8] An important aspect of Postmodernism is its focus on community and collaboration. Artists often work together on projects, creating a sense of shared purpose and collective expression. This contrasts with the individualism often associated with Postmodernism. For instance, the artist collective Meow Wolf has gained acclaim for its immersive, collaborative art installations that engage audiences in unique and meaningful ways.

[9] Education and pedagogy have also been influenced by Post-Postmodernist ideas. Educators are encouraged to adopt more inclusive and student-centered approaches, fostering critical thinking and creativity. This shift is evident in art schools and universities, where traditional hierarchies are being challenged, and students are empowered to take an active role in their learning.

[10] Despite its many strengths, Postmodernism is not without its challenges. One significant issue is the potential for commercialization. As the movement gains popularity, there is a risk that its core values of sincerity and authenticity could be compromised by market forces. Artists and institutions must navigate these pressures carefully to maintain the integrity of their work.

[11] Furthermore, the global nature of Postmodernism means that it must contend with diverse cultural contexts and interpretations. What resonates as sincere and authentic in one culture may not have the same impact in another. This necessitates a flexible and adaptive approach, allowing for a multiplicity of voices and experiences to shape the movement.

[12] In the realm of visual arts, Postmodernism has led to a resurgence of interest in traditional techniques and craftsmanship. Artists are revisiting methods such as painting, sculpture, and printmaking, blending them with contemporary themes and technologies. This fusion of old and new creates a dynamic and evolving landscape, where innovation and tradition coexist harmoniously.

[13] The influence of Postmodernism extends beyond the arts into broader cultural and social spheres. It encourages a re-examination of values and norms, promoting empathy and understanding across different communities. This ethos is particularly relevant in today's polarized world, where dialogue and mutual respect are essential for addressing complex global challenges.

[14] In conclusion, Postmodernism represents a significant shift in the art world. It calls for a return to sincerity and meaningful engagement with the human condition. Whether this movement will endure or evolve into something entirely new remains to be seen, but its impact on contemporary art is undeniable. As artists and audiences continue to explore and define what Postmodernism means, it promises to enrich our cultural landscape with depth, authenticity, and a renewed sense of purpose. The movement's emphasis on genuine emotional expression and connection challenges artists to delve deeper into their own experiences and the experiences of those around them. Furthermore, Postmodernism encourages a dialogue between the past and present, allowing for a reinterpretation of historical themes through a contemporary lens. Ultimately, Postmodernism invites us all to reconsider our relationship with art and its role in our lives, urging us to seek out and create works that resonate on a deeply human level.

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Questions

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-21. (42 marks)

Text 1

1. Complete the summary of paragraphs 1 and 2 by selecting the best option from the choices below.

Modern Postmodernism in art is a movement that aims to _____ the skepticism of Postmodernism. It seeks to reconstruct meaning and addresses the human condition with sincerity.

- A. embrace
B. counter
C. enhance
D. disregard

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

2. What word in paragraph 1 indicates that Postmodernism is a reaction to Postmodernism?

3. Find a word in paragraph 2 which means 'expressed indirectly'. _____

4. In paragraph 2, what does 'fragmented view of reality' refer to?

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5. Explain the term 'cultural dead end' as used in paragraph 2.

6. According to paragraph 3, what are two characteristics of Postmodernism? (2 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

7. Below is a summary of paragraph 2-3. In four of the lines, there is ONE mistake. If you find a mistake, underline it and replace the word with one that expresses the correct idea. Write the word in the box on the right. Both grammar and spelling must be correct. In one of the lines, there is no mistake; put a tick (✓) in the corresponding box. The first has been done for you as an example. (5 marks)

Summary Correction	Answer
e.g. The <u>extinction</u> of Postmodernism can be traced back to the early 21th century.	emergence
(i) Artists felt that the irony of Postmodernism had led to a cultural dead end.	
(ii) This new movement seeks to remove seriousness and meaning.	
(iii) An example is Kehinde, whose works invite viewers to connect.	
(iv) Another example is Kehinde, who reinterprets modern portraits.	
(v) Both artists aim to detach the gap between the past and present.	

8. With reference to paragraph 5, what is one potential risk of Postmodernism?

9. According to the passage, how do critics view the search for sincerity and truth in Postmodernism?

10. According to the passage are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

Statements

- (i) Postmodernism is considered a continuation of Postmodernism.
 (ii) Postmodernism emerged in the early 21st century.
 (iii) Postmodernism completely rejects all aspects of Postmodernism.

T	F	NG
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Use the information in the passage to complete the table below with one word for each blank. (3 marks)

Artist	Work Characteristic	Example of Work
Tracey Emin	(i) _____	Autobiographical pieces
Kehinde Wiley	(ii) _____	(iii) _____ portraits

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12. What is the main idea of paragraph 6?

13. Find a word in paragraph 7 that means “critical evaluation”

14. Based on paragraph 7, what are two ways digital media has influenced Postmodernism? (2 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

15. According to paragraph 8, what is one way Individualism differs from Postmodernism?

16. According to paragraph 8, why is the collaboration of artists important in Postmodernism? (2 marks)

17. Based on paragraphs 9 and 10, how are educational institutions adapting to Post-Postmodernist ideas? (2 marks)

18. Identify and explain two potential challenges of Postmodernism mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11. (4 marks)

- (i) _____

- (ii) _____

19. According to the passage are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

Statements

- (i) Postmodernism has no influence outside the art world.
 (ii) The internet has democratized art, allowing more voices to be heard.
 (iii) Postmodernism is expected to fade away soon.

T	F	NG
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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20. Match each paragraph (7-12) with the correct heading. (5 marks)

Paragraph	Answer	Heading
7	(i) _____	A. Influence of Digital Media
8	(ii) _____	B. Community and Collaboration
9	(iii) _____	C. Education and Pedagogy
10	(iv) _____	D. Challenges of Commercialization
11	(v) _____	E. Global Nature and Cultural Contexts
12	(vi) _____	F. Resurgence of Traditional Techniques
		G. Broader Cultural and Social Influence

21. What is the writer's view on the impact of Postmodernism on contemporary art?

END OF PART A

Answers with paragraph numbers:

1. B [1]
2. response [1]
3. pastiche [2]
4. It refers to the perception of reality as disjointed and composed of multiple, conflicting perspectives, characteristic of Postmodernism. [2]
5. 'Cultural dead end' refers to a situation where cultural development has stagnated, with no progress or meaningful evolution, due to the pervasive irony and pastiche of Postmodernism. [2]
6. (i) authenticity [3]
(ii) emotional depth [3]
7. (i) ✓ [2]
(ii) restore [2]
(iii) Tracey [3]
(iv) classical [3]
(v) bridge [3]
8. It risks falling into the trap of naïveté and oversimplification. [4]
9. They caution that it can lead to a new form of dogmatism. [4]
10. (i) F [5]
(ii) T [2]
(iii) NG [5]
11. (i) emotional [3]
(ii) Reinterprets classical [3]
(iii) contemporary [3]
12. The main idea of paragraph 6 is that Postmodernism has influenced writers to create works that, while acknowledging the fragmented nature of reality, strive to find coherence and meaning. [6]
13. democratization [7]
14. (i) Created new avenues for artists to express themselves
(ii) Allowed for a diverse range of voices and perspectives [7]

15. Collaboration fosters a sense of shared purpose and collective expression, which contrasts with the individualism of Postmodernism, and allows for more engaging and meaningful art experiences. [8]
16. Educational institutions are adopting more inclusive and student-centered approaches, empowering students to take an active role in their learning, and navigating pressures from commercialization to maintain the integrity of their work. [9, 10]
17. Postmodernism focuses on community and collaboration rather than individualism. [8]
18.
 - (i) A [7]
 - (ii) B [8]
 - (iii) C [9]
 - (iv) D [10]
 - (v) E [11]
 - (vi) F [12]
19.
 - (i) Commercialization: The core values of sincerity and authenticity could be compromised by market forces. [10]
 - (ii) Cultural Contexts: Different cultural interpretations may affect the impact and reception of the movement. [11]
20.
 - (i) F [13]
 - (ii) T [7]
 - (iii) NG [14]
21. The writer believes that Postmodernism has a significant and positive impact on contemporary art, bringing depth, authenticity, and renewed purpose. [14]

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Practical Vocabulary and Usage List

1. **traction** /'træk.ʃən/ [1]
牽引力, 抓地力, 支持 [n]
e.g. The new marketing campaign gained significant traction.
新市場推廣活動獲得了顯著的牽引力。
2. **skepticism** /'skep.tɪ.sɪ.zəm/ [1]
懷疑, 疑問, 懷疑態度 [n]
e.g. There was considerable skepticism about the new theory.
對新理論有相當的懷疑。
3. **fragmented** /'fræg.men.tɪd/ [1]
碎片化的, 分裂的 [adj]
e.g. The report provided a fragmented view of the situation.
報告提供了情況的碎片化看法。
4. **cynicism** /'sɪn.ɪ.sɪ.zəm/ [1]
玩世不恭, 憤世嫉俗, 諷刺 [n]
e.g. His cynicism made it difficult for others to take him seriously.
他的玩世不恭使得別人難以認真對待他。
5. **detachment** /dɪ'tætʃ.mənt/ [1]
冷漠, 分離, 超然 [n]
e.g. Her detachment from the issue was evident in her response.
她對問題的冷漠在她的回應中顯而易見。
6. **existential** /,eg.zɪ'sten.ʃəl/ [1]
存在的, 有關存在的, 關於存在主義的 [adj]
e.g. The novel deals with existential themes such as identity and purpose.
小說探討了身份和目的等存在主題。
7. **pastiche** /pæs'ti:ʃ/ [2]
模仿作品, 拼湊作品, 仿作 [n]
e.g. The film was a pastiche of 80s action movies.
這部電影是對 80 年代動作電影的模仿作品。
8. **trivialization** /,trɪv.i.ə.laɪ'zeɪ.ʃən/ [2]
簡化, 淺薄化, 瑣碎化 [n]
e.g. The trivialization of the issue led to public outrage.
對問題的簡化導致了公眾的憤怒。
9. **superficiality** /,su:.pə'fɪ.i'æl.ə.ti/ [2]
表面化, 膚淺, 淺薄 [n]
e.g. The superficiality of the analysis was criticized by experts.
專家們批評了分析的表面化。

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10. **autobiographical** /ˌɔː.təˌbaɪ.əˈɡræf.i.kəl/ [3]

自傳的, 自傳體的, 關於自傳的 [adj]

e.g. Her latest book is an autobiographical account of her childhood.

她最新的書是她童年的自傳性敘述。

11. **dogmatism** /ˈdɒɡ.mə.tɪ.zəm/ [4]

教條主義, 獨斷論, 教條 [n]

e.g. The leader's dogmatism stifled innovation within the organization.

領袖的教條主義扼殺了組織內的創新。

12. **nuanced** /ˈnjuː.ɑːnst/ [5]

細緻的, 微妙的, 有細微差別的 [adj]

e.g. The debate requires a nuanced understanding of the issues involved.

辯論需要對所涉及的問題有細緻的理解。

13. **pivotal** /ˈpɪv.ə.təl/ [2]

關鍵的, 樞紐的 [adj]

e.g. The decision was pivotal to the success of the project.

這一決定對項目的成功至關重要。

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14. **authenticity** /ˌɔː.θenˈtɪs.ə.ti/ [1]

真實性 [n]

e.g. The authenticity of the artifact was confirmed by experts.

專家確認了文物的真實性。

15. **empathy** /ˈem.pə.θi/ [13]

同理心, 同情, 感同身受 [n]

e.g. Empathy is essential for effective communication.

同理心對於有效溝通至關重要。

16. **polarized** /ˈpəʊ.lə.raɪzd/ [13]

兩極分化的, 偏振的, 極端化的 [adj]

e.g. The debate has become increasingly polarized.

辯論變得越來越兩極分化。

17. **navigate** /ˈnæv.ɪ.geɪ.tɪd/ [10]

航行, 駕駛, 導航 [v]

e.g. They successfully navigated the complex regulations.

他們成功地航行了複雜的規定。

18. **multiplicity** /ˌmʌl.tɪˈplɪs.ə.ti/ [11]

多樣性, 複數, 多重性 [n]

e.g. The city is known for its multiplicity of cultures.

這座城市以其多樣性的文化著稱。

19. **holistic** /həʊˈlɪs.tɪk/ [5]

整體的, 全面的, 全盤的 [adj]

e.g. A holistic approach to health considers physical, mental, and social well-being.

整體健康方法考慮身體、心理和社會福祉。

20. **engagement** /ɪnˈɡeɪdʒ.mənt/ [1]

參與, 訂婚, 承諾 [n]

e.g. The company promotes active engagement with the community.

公司提倡與社區的積極參與。

21. **proponent** /prəˈpəʊ.nənts/ [4]

支持者, 擁護者, 提倡者 [n]

e.g. Proponents of the new law argue that it will reduce crime.

新法律的支持者認為它會減少犯罪。

22. **reinvigorating** /ˌriːɪnˈvɪɡ.ə.reɪ.tɪŋ/ [4]

重振, 使復興, 使恢復 [v]

e.g. The new policies are aimed at reinvigorating the economy.

新政策旨在重振經濟。

23. **hierarchy** /ˈhaɪə.rɑː.kɪz/ [9]

階級制度, 階層, 等級制度 [n]

e.g. The company has a strict hierarchy that dictates employee roles.

公司有嚴格的階級制度來規定員工的角色。

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24. **commodification** /kəˌmɒd.i.fɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/ [10]

商品化 [n]

e.g. The commodification of culture has led to its dilution.

文化的商品化導致其淡化。

25. **resurgence** /rɪˈsɜː.dʒəns/ [12]

復甦, 再起, 再現 [n]

e.g. The resurgence of interest in vintage fashion has influenced modern designs.

對復古時尚的興趣復甦影響了現代設計。

26. **pedagogy** /ˈped.ə.gə.dʒi/ [9]

教育學, 教學法, 教育理論 [n]

e.g. Modern pedagogy emphasizes student-centered learning.

現代教育學強調以學生為中心的學習。

27. **immersive** /ɪˈmɜː.sɪv/ [8]

沉浸式的, 沉浸的, 沉浸感的 [adj]

e.g. The museum offers an immersive experience with its virtual reality exhibits.

博物館通過虛擬現實展品提供沉浸式體驗。

28. **interconnected** /ˌɪn.tə.kəˈnek.tɪd/ [11]

相互連接的, 互聯的, 緊密相連的 [adj]

e.g. The global economy is highly interconnected.

全球經濟高度相互連接。

29. **pedagogy** /ˈped.ə.gə.dʒi/ [9]

教育學, 教學法, 教育理論 [n]

e.g. Modern pedagogy emphasizes student-centered learning.

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