



GRADUATE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

OPEN TEST

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: ENGLISH

JUNE 2017

SURNAMES AND NAME: _____

SIGNATURE:

Banksy

The anonymous street graffiti artist



What is art? Over the years, people have given different answers. History has shown that art appears in many forms and styles, from cave paintings and realism to impressionism and abstract. For the street artist known as Banksy, art is a way to send a message by using satire and a dark sense of humor.

Banksy is a graffiti artist and political activist of unknown identity. His provocative artwork has been displayed on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world. After a series of art pieces painted on a wall in the West Bank, Banksy became internationally renowned. Although his identity remains unknown, it is believed by many that Banksy was born in Bristol, England possibly in 1974.

Over the years, many people have speculated the artist's true identity. In a *New York Times* article, Michiko Kakutani states that Banksy chooses to live an obscure life due to "the illegal nature of graffiti". For *The Guardian's* journalist Kakutani "Banksy "maintains his anonymity as another tool in his arsenal...to get his own mystique bigger".

Throughout his artistic career, Banksy has attracted attention from many, including artists and celebrities. Yet, there are those who believe his art is a form of vandalism. Some people feel his installations disrupt order and his artwork either destroys public property or causes controversy.

Anyway, Banksy appears to be aware of world events and social injustice. He creates intellectually stimulating works of art that provide his audience with a fresh look at those events and injustices. It is through his art that inspires people to take drastic action.

Adapted from: <https://the-artifice.com/banksy-the-elusive-street-graffiti-artist/>



1. Reading Comprehension (5 points)

1. - Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE according to the text? (2 points)

1. - Banksy's real identity is well-known:
2. - Banksy uses his ironic artwork to denounce injustices:
3. - Banksy is thought to come from the city of Bath:
4. -Some people think his art is a type of vandalism that destroys public `property:
.....

2. - Answer the following questions using information from the text and your own words, in full sentences. (2 points)

1. - When did Banksy become internationally known?

.....

.....

.....

2. - What does *The Guardian's* journalist Kakutani think about Banksy's anonymity?

.....

.....

.....

3. - Vocabulary. Find words in the text meaning the following: (1 point)

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| nameless | |
| objective (goal) | |
| dark | |
| dispute | |

4. Choose the best word from the box to complete the text. (2 points)

(There are **2 words** that you don't need)

Mobile lovers



A new painting by the "*guerilla artist*" Banksy is now the focus of argument in the city of Bristol, England. The painting (1) on a building near a youth club. Dennis Stinchcombe, the club leader, couldn't believe his luck when he (2) it and discovered it could be worth \$150,000. He took it off the (3) and stored it in the youth club to sell it and raise (4) for the youth club. However, the city mayor said Mr Stinchcombe had no right to take the painting as it was on the wall of a city-owned building. He said it was "against the spirit of Banksy and street (5) " to remove it from where the artist put it. The mayor wants the painting to be put (6)

The painting has been called "*Mobile Lovers*". It shows a man and a (7) embracing while checking out their mobile phones over one another's (8) The mysterious artist, who is only known by the (9) Banksy, has become famous for paintings left on walls and buildings (10) the world. Many have been removed by building owners and caused similar discussion.

wall	pseudonym	saw	art
woman	appeared	on	shoulder
painted	back	around	money

Write your answers here:

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

