

Písomná forma internej časti maturitnej skúšky

Predmet: anglický jazyk
Úroveň: C1
Téma: **Arts Around Us**

The head teacher of your school is to decide which painting reproductions will be hung on the wall of the Meeting Hall with a brief biography of the artist, and has asked students to express their opinions. Read the Appendix, which provides information about two significant world-renowned painters, and look at their photos and examples of their work. On the basis of the information from the text and pictures, write an article entitled *Arts Around Us* (260–320 words) containing the following points:

- Which of them would be suitable for presenting at school, based on the artists' traits and lifestyle?
- Compare the sources of inspiration for the artists, and identify similarities and/or differences.
- Would the paintings impress the students at your school? Which of them would you choose and why?

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Appendix

Claude Monet



Claude Monet



Woman in a Garden (1867)

Claude Monet was born in Paris in 1840. When he was five years old, his family moved to the north of France. Later, he returned to his birthplace to study painting. He did his obligatory military service in Algeria. The natural colours of the scenery became his inspiration. Following his military service, he completed his university studies. In a private painting studio he met significant painters, with whom he founded an artistic school – Impressionism.

He got married to Camille, a model, with whom he had two sons. They moved to a small town near Paris. During the Franco-Prussian war (1870–1871) he fled to England, where he painted in London's parks. His wife died in 1879 from tuberculosis, and his family friend Alice brought up Monet's children together with her own. Later they got married. Alice died in 1911 and Monet's son Jean died in 1914.

Monet's paintings sold well, and Monet founded his own studio. As well as journeys to London, Norway and Italy, Monet took up gardening and created a beautiful garden with a pond, which became the subject of many of his paintings. Towards the end of his life, he suffered from many diseases and it was more difficult for him to paint. In spite of this, he did not give up and remained active until his final moments.

Impressionism is bound up with realism. The goal of this school is painting outdoors, where the artist tries to catch the atmosphere of the immediate moment. The essence of the painting is not its content, but colourfulness. Impressionist paintings are made by short brush strokes and freely brushed colours (mainly bright colours), which form a unique structural surface.

Salvador Dalí



Salvador Dalí



The Persistence of Memory (1931)

Salvador Dalí was born in Spain in 1904. He was named after his elder brother, who died 9 months before his birth. His parents believed that he was his reincarnation.

Salvador inherited his talent from his mother, who supported him from his childhood. When he was 16 years old, she died of cancer. At the age of 17, he started to study at the Academy of Arts in Madrid. He was expelled from school because he claimed that

he was more intelligent than his teachers and hence they had no right to examine him. He attracted attention with his paintings as well as by his appearance and behaviour. Later, his father disinherited him for his debauched life and improper behaviour, and banned him from entering his house.

Salvador got married to Gala who was 10 years older. She was not only his Muse, but his fellow painter as well. Gala was his manager, assisted him in many ways and helped him become rich. He adored and admired her, but both of them had extramarital affairs both with men and women. After her death he stopped eating and almost died.

"I am surrealism", Dalí claimed and he was right. He is its most significant representative despite the fact that later surrealists excluded him from their ranks. He died of a heart attack listening to his late wife's favourite music.

Surrealism is an artistic movement which tries to liberate the mind, emphasises the sub-conscious and dreams, and promotes getting to know oneself in depth. It wants to heal the soul from both repressed instincts and the dictates of the brain – not only in the paintings but in the private life of the painters. It emerged as a response to the horrors of the First World War, with the artists believing that the world might be changed into a place of love, freedom and poetry.