

Grand Tour Future Paths

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Grand Tour – Future Paths

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PREFACE

During the 17th and 18th centuries wealthy young people took a trip around Europe in order to complete their education. They visited famous historical sites, learned languages, and made friends with people in various countries. The Grand Tour helped prepare them for life as international citizens.

The *Grand Tour* series of books looks at a variety of important trends that are shaping the modern world. Each book examines issues that affect our lives, which will change our lives in the future, and which you will influence in the future.

The topics covered in the essays range widely and are grouped into four sections: the worlds of culture and society, science and technology, business and economics, and politics and international relations. Included are topics that encourage you to look at an everyday thing from a new perspective, topics that showcase the amazing progress and discoveries that are being made, and topics which focus on aspects of the world that need to be changed, or which are changing too slowly.

We hope that you will find these topics interesting and thought-provoking, and that they encourage you to learn more about them. We sincerely hope you enjoy your Grand Tour.

Anthony Sellick, James Bury, and Kaori Horiuchi

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Not Just a Pretty Picture

The Importance of Art



Topic Activation

Think about the topic of **art**. Write as many words connected to the topic as you can in the space below. Then, compare your words with a partner.



Useful Words

Choose a word from the list below to complete each sentence.

1. Art is a(n) _____ part of the culture of many countries.
2. The audience was silent _____ the performance.
3. The government's policies are unpopular, and many people _____ them.
4. The bad behavior of some audience members was a(n) _____.
5. It was difficult for the transfer student to _____ to life in Japan.

adapt

criticize

distraction

significant

throughout



Reading

1-02 ~ 09

02

1 Art can take many forms and can affect us in many ways, whether we are looking at a painting by Pablo Picasso, listening to a sonata composed by Mozart, or experiencing a piece of contemporary art created by Mariko Mori. However, as technology develops, the role of art in modern society is increasingly being questioned. While it has been argued that governments should allocate the money spent on funding art projects to more essential services like education and healthcare, others believe that the importance of art needs to be

acknowledged more. What are some of the reasons why art is thought to be so significant?

03 

2 *Communication* – As illustrated by the saying “a picture is worth a thousand words,” art is an important method of communicating. Most visual art does not use words, so it is not constrained by a single language. Consequently, a wide range of feelings and messages can be expressed to people all over the world. As a result, art can serve as a bridge between cultures, educating people about diverse customs, lifestyles, and histories. It also offers a unique way of conveying complex emotions and ideas that words might not be able to fully capture. The significance of art in communication has been recognized throughout history, and in some cultures such as ancient Greece, art was considered the only way to communicate with the gods.



Art was considered the only way to communicate with the gods in ancient Greece.

04 

3 *Education* – Engaging with art also has a number of educational benefits, such as facilitating the enhancement of language and visual learning development. Exposure to art can also improve cognitive development, positively impacting math skills and other related subjects. Research has indicated that young people who regularly participate in the arts, both as creators and consumers, are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.

05 

4 *Society* – As art can be shared by people from diverse cultures and backgrounds, it can play an invaluable role in establishing a shared identity and sense of belonging, promoting inclusion, diversity, and social well-being. Furthermore, access to art can increase reflection and debate on social, political, and cultural issues. This reflection affects people in many ways. For example, high school students in the US who engaged in the arts at school were shown to be twice as likely to volunteer and also 20 percent more likely to vote when they become young adults. Additionally, art can be used to highlight and bring attention to a large variety of causes, and it has been used to raise awareness of autism, cancer, human trafficking, human rights, and environmental issues. Some art forms, particularly graffiti and other types of street art, seek to question and even criticize some aspects of society, which can shift the way people view important subjects.

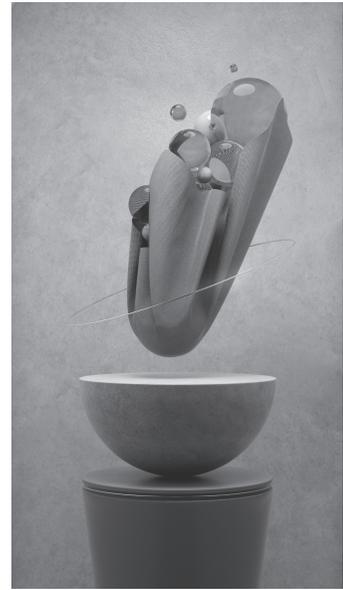
06 

5 *Creativity* – By providing a platform to express feelings, thoughts, and identities, art

allows people to explore their creative abilities. This encourages people to look beyond the basic necessities of life, such as food and water, and create art for the higher purpose of expression and meaning. Moreover, the study of art fosters a deeper understanding of creative processes and the power of creative expression. This insight enables people to approach other subject matter with an open mind.

07 

6 *Emotions* – Art evokes a range of feelings, from joy and wonder to sorrow and anger. Therefore, it can be a form of distraction and escape from people’s daily routine, which can help relieve stress and anxiety, making life more manageable. Also, enabling people to see different perspectives and world views can help them gain a sense of fulfilment, which can have a positive effect on mental health. Art has even been used as a



Creative art must be approached with an open mind.

form of therapy. Studies suggest that participating in artistic activities can help counter depression and can increase self-esteem and confidence. The type of art does make a difference, though. In one study, a group of children who were asked to draw a house after thinking about something upsetting had greatly improved moods when compared with children who were instructed to draw the event that had upset them. Furthermore, research has found that engaging with live arts and visual arts was associated with the highest levels of well-being. This link has been shown to last a long time with people who regularly attended live art events showing greater positive effects up to three years later.

08 

7 *Economics* – Art can also boost productivity. Engagement in art has been shown to help develop soft skills that make people better co-workers, such as the ability to adapt to change and collaborate with team members. Furthermore, art can create economic opportunities for artists and communities, promoting tourism and stimulating local economies. Major cities around the world, and even smaller rural communities, use museums, galleries, and art shows to attract visitors. This leads to the creation of jobs, revenue, and other areas for growth.

09 

8 For centuries, art has shaped and influenced society. The positive effects of art can still be seen today in a range of contexts. By promoting art, a more inclusive society can be built where everyone has the chance to appreciate the true importance of art.

Notes

inclusion 「インクルージョン」 包括, 包含という意味の語で, それぞれの個性を互いに尊重し, 能力を活かした活動ができる状態。 **autism** 「自閉症スペクトラム」 **human trafficking** 「人身売買」 **graffiti** 「グラフィ

ティ」ストリートアートの一つで、スプレーなどを使い、壁や電車などに文字や記号、絵を描くこと。メッセージ性が込められることが多い。無許可で行われる場合は犯罪となる。 **self-esteem**「自尊心」



Questions for Understanding

Part 1 Look at the following statements about the passage. Write *T* if the statement is *True*, and *F* if it is *False*. Write the number of the paragraph where you find the answer in the parenthesis.

- 1) _____ Some people feel there are more important things than art to invest in. []
- 2) _____ Young people that are active in the arts are more likely to be academically recognized. []
- 3) _____ Access to art reduces reflection and debate. []
- 4) _____ Participating in art can have a positive effect on depression. []

Part 2 Look at the following questions about the passage. Check the best answer for each.

1. What are **not** found in most visual art?
 - a. words
 - b. feelings
 - c. messages
 - d. emotions
2. What can art be used to highlight?
 - a. high school students
 - b. social causes
 - c. graffiti
 - d. street types
3. What can art motivate people to do? Choose **all** that apply.
 - a. express feelings
 - b. focus on the basic necessities of life
 - c. explore creative abilities
 - d. approach a range of topics with an open mind

4. Which word has the closest meaning to the word “boost” in Paragraph 7?
- produce
 - increase
 - constrain
 - convey

Summary

1-10 

Fill each space with the best word from the list below.

fulfilling enhance exposure acknowledging engaging growth

There are many different types of art, from paintings to music to theater performances. Many people enjoy art as a form of entertainment, but the benefits of 1) _____ with the arts can go deeper than their just being fun. 2) _____ to art can help people improve communication skills, 3) _____ educational development, bring a society closer together, boost creativity, express complex emotions, and create opportunities for economic 4) _____. 5) _____ these positive effects and investing more time and money in art could make the lives of many people more enjoyable and 6) _____.

Think About It

Writers and speakers often mix facts and their opinions together. Being able to recognize facts and opinions is a useful skill.

Look at the sentences about art. Are they facts or opinions? Circle Fact or Opinion.

- | | | |
|---|------|---------|
| 1. The importance of art needs to be acknowledged more. | Fact | Opinion |
| 2. A range of feelings can be expressed through art. | Fact | Opinion |
| 3. Art is the best way to bring people together. | Fact | Opinion |
| 4. Art has been used as a form of therapy. | Fact | Opinion |
| 5. More cities should use art to encourage tourists. | Fact | Opinion |

 **Over to You**

Part 1 – Ask Ask and answer the following questions.

1. Are you good at art?
2. Do you have a favorite artist?
3. Do you think movies are art?
4. Do you have any pieces of art in your home?
5. Would you like to improve your artistic skills in the future?

Part 2 – Write Choose ONE of the statements below. Prepare a short response giving your opinion.

- Artistic skill is something we are born with, not something we learn.
- Governments should invest more money in promoting the arts.

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Part 3 – Discuss Look at the statement below. Do you agree or disagree? Why? Share your opinion with your classmates and find out what they think.

- Art lessons should be compulsory for all students in school.