



大学生公共基础课创新型精品教材

新素养 大学英语

主编 洪芳

综合教程

AN INTEGRATED COURSE

(第二册)



北京出版集团
北京出版社

新素养大学英语综合教程（第二册）

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Unit 1

Art & Craft

Part I Warm-Up



1 Quotations Related to the Topic

我国工人阶级和广大劳动群众要大力弘扬劳模精神、劳动精神、工匠精神，适应当今世界科技革命和产业变革的需要，勤学苦练、深入钻研，勇于创新、敢为人先，不断提高技术技能水平，为推动高质量发展、实施制造强国战略、全面建设社会主义现代化国家贡献智慧和力量。要在全社会弘扬精益求精的工匠精神，激励广大青年走技能成才、技能报国之路。



China's working class and other laboring people should carry forward the spirit of model workers, hard-working and craftsmanship and adapt themselves to the requirements of the current global revolution in science and technology and industrial transformation. With diligence, dedication, innovation and initiative, they must keep honing their skills and contribute their wisdom and strength to promoting high-quality development, making China strong in manufacturing, and building a modern socialist country in all respects. In the whole society, we should carry forward craftsmanship with the pursuit of excellence, and encourage the young people to develop their skills to serve the country.

2 Watch and Learn



Have you ever stood in front of a painting, a sculpture, or even a piece of digital art, and wondered, “What is this all for?” You’re not alone. Art has been a part of human civilization for thousands of years, yet its true purpose remains a mystery that has puzzled philosophers, artists, and thinkers alike. In this video, we’re going to embark on a journey to uncover the true meaning and purpose of art. We’ll explore different theories and perspectives on art, from the traditional to the contemporary, and discover how art has evolved over time to reflect the changing values and beliefs of society. We’ll also take a closer look at some of the world’s most famous artworks and examine how they have impacted our lives and our understanding of the world around us.

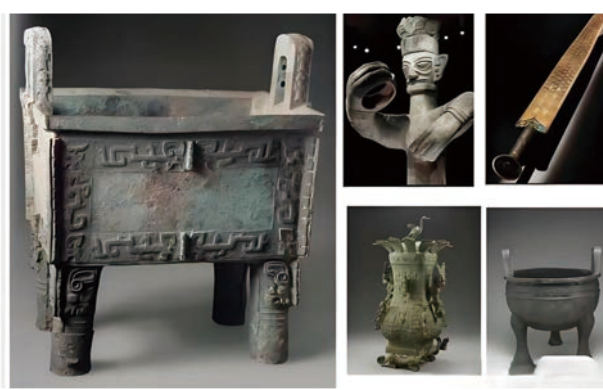
So, whether you’re an art lover, a curious beginner, or simply someone who wants to learn more about the fascinating world of creativity, join us on this journey of discovery as we unlock the secrets of art and explore its many purposes. Let’s dive in!

A light purple notebook page with a spiral binding on the left side. The page features ten horizontal blue lines for writing. The spiral binding is depicted with white and blue rings.

Part II In-Depth Reading

Read the passage, and complete the tasks that follow.

Text A



Chinese Arts & Crafts

- 1 It is common knowledge that China has a long and glorious history in both arts and traditional crafts. These are just two of the many jewels in China's over five-thousand-year culture. The arts and crafts are not only the embodiment of the people's longing for aesthetic beauty for themselves and as gifts for others, but also great treasures for China and the rest of the world. Many of the master artisans have had their skills handed down via one generation to the next so that only the offspring of such an artisan could learn the necessary skills required. The result is that they are the most valuable treasures both for a family and for the nation.

glorious *adj.* 辉煌的

craft *n.* 工艺

embodiment *n.* 体现

aesthetic *adj.* 审美的，美学的

treasure *n.* 宝藏

artisan *n.* 工匠

offspring *n.* (人的) 后代

- 2 Of all the Chinese arts and crafts, the most representative are **Bronze Vessels**, **Embroidery**, **Calligraphy**, **Paper-Cuttings**. They are not only a vivid **reflection** of the culture of China but also the embodiment of both the local people, and of the nation itself.

Chinese Bronze Vessels

- 3 Bronze Vessels invented some 5,000 years ago led the **ancestors** of modern China from the **Stone Age** into a new era—the **Bronze Age**. The produced bronzes were delicately **decorated** with a diverse range of designs and **motifs** and were widely used in many aspects of life, such as **musical instruments**, **ceremonial offerings** and weapons of war being of great significance in the history of China.

- 4 Bronze is the alloy of copper, **stannum** and **plumbum**. Generally speaking, bronze culture underwent three stages, that is, the forming period, the thriving period, and the turning period. The forming period indicates the Longshan Culture 4,500 - 4,000 years ago in the **Neolithic Age**; while the thriving period from Xia, Shang to the Zhou Dynasties (11th century BC - 221 BC), the artistic **achievements** were extremely brilliant: bronze was widely used mostly as musical instruments in **sacrificial** temples, as weapons of war and other **vessels** in court life.

Chinese Calligraphy

- 5 In China calligraphy occupies a **distinguished** position in the field of traditional art. It is not only a means of communication, but also a means of expressing a person's inner world in an aesthetic sense.

- 6 Ancient people paid great attention to calligraphy. It was an **essential** aspect whereby a candidate could **manifest** his literary talent in the **Imperial Examination**, for it gave a first impression to the examiners. Children of high officials had to learn and try to write a good hand; even emperors themselves were good at calligraphy, for example, the versatile Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911) has left us many examples of his handwriting on steels in temples and palaces.

- 7 To practice calligraphy requires the basic tools of 'four treasures of study' (writing brush, ink stick, paper, and ink slab) as well as much

Bronze Vessel *n.* 青铜器

embroidery *n.* 刺绣

calligraphy *n.* 书法

paper-cutting *n.* 剪纸

reflection *n.* 体现

ancestor *n.* 祖先

Stone Age *n.* 石器时代

Bronze Age *n.* 青铜时代

decorate *v.* 装饰

motif *n.* 纹饰

musical instrument *n.* 乐器

ceremonial offering *n.* 祭品

stannum *n.* 锡

plumbum *n.* 铅

Neolithic Age *n.* 新石器时代

achievement *n.* 成就

sacrificial *adj.* 祭祀的

vessel *n.* 器皿

distinguish *v.* 区分

essential *adj.* 必不可少的, 必需的

manifest *v.* 展现

Imperial Examination *n.* 科举考试

concentration on guiding the soft writing brush charged with fluid ink, and writing on the paper where the ink will diffuse quickly. Once the brush movement hesitates, a black mark is created, so speed, strength and **agility** is the essence of fine artwork. When writing, many calligraphers will forget all worries and even themselves, combining all thoughts in the beauty of their art. Thus it can be compared with Qigong, which also can mould and improve a person's temper and promote well-being.

8 Calligraphy, like a mirror, is a silent reflection of the soul. It is believed to have **verve**, optimism, moderateness, or pessimism. Su Dongpo, one of the four litterateurs in the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279), composed many bold and unconstrained ci (a form of poetry that flourished in the Song Dynasty), also could write handsome characters in good taste.

9 Today, although various modern ways have been **substituted** for the original calligraphy, especially that created with a writing brush, people still love the ancient form and practice it untiringly. During the traditional festivals, **propitious** couplets are always indispensable decorations each written in a beautiful style.

Chinese Embroidery

10 Embroidery is a **brilliant** pearl in Chinese art. It has four major traditional styles: Su, Shu, Xiang, and Yue. From the **magnificent** Dragon Robe worn by Emperors to the popular embroidery seen in today's fashions, it adds so much pleasure to our life and our culture.

11 The oldest embroidered product in China on record dates from the Shang Dynasty. Embroidery in this period **symbolized** social status. It was not until later on, as the national economy developed, that embroidered products entered the lives of the common people.

12 Through the development during the Zhou Dynasty, the Han Dynasty witnessed a leap in embroidery in both technique and art style. Court embroidery was set and specialization came into being. The patterns covered a larger range, from sun, moon, stars, mountains, dragons, and phoenix to tiger, flower and grass, clouds and geometric patterns. Auspicious words were also fashionable. Both historic records

concentration *n.* 专注

agility *n.* 敏捷

verve *n.* 活力; 神韵

substitute *v.* 替代

propitious *adj.* 吉祥的

brilliant *adj.* 卓越的

magnificent *adj.* 壮丽的

symbolize *v.* 象征

and products of the time proved this. According to the records, all the women in the capital of Qi (today's Linzi, Shandong) were able to embroider, even the stupid were adept at it! They saw and practiced it every day so naturally they became good at it. The royal family and **aristocrats** had everything covered with embroidery—even their rooms were decorated with so many embroidered ornaments that the walls could not be seen! Embroidered products flooded their homes, from mattresses to beddings, from clothes worn in life time to burial articles.

Chinese Paper-Cut

13 Paper-cut is a very **distinctive** visual art of Chinese handicrafts. It originated in the 6th century when women used to paste golden and silver foil cuttings onto their hair at the temples, and men used them in sacred **rituals**. Later, they were used during festivals to decorate gates and windows. After hundreds of years' development, they have become a very popular means of decoration among country folk, especially women.

14 The main cutting tools are simple: paper and scissors or an engraving knife, but clever and **deft** craftspeople are remarkably good at cutting on the theme of daily life. When you look at items made in this method carefully, you will be amazed by the true-to-life expressions of the figure's sentiment and appearance, or portrayal of natural plants and animals' diverse gestures. Patterns of chrysanthemum display the curling petals, pied magpies show their tiny feathers and there are also others such as a married daughter returning to her parents' home, or young people paying a Chinese New Year call to their grandparents.

15 Although other art forms, like painting, can also show similar scenes, paper cutting still stands out for its charm - exacting lines and ingenious patterns which are all hand-made. To make the three-dimensional scenes pop out visually from the paper, as they are usually in **monochrome**, engravers must exert their imagination. They must delete secondary parts and compose the main body properly, abstractly and boldly. Though simple, the color then appears charmingly bright.

16 It is easy to learn about cutting a piece of paper but very difficult to master it with perfection. One must grasp the knife in an **upright** fashion and press evenly on the paper with some strength. **Flexibility** is

aristocrat *n.* 贵族

distinctive *adj.* 独特的

ritual *n.* 神圣仪式

deft *adj.* 熟练的

monochrome *adj.* 单色的

upright *adj.* 垂直的

flexibility *n.* 灵活性

required but any hesitation or wiggling will lead to imprecision or will damage the whole image. Engravers stress the cutting lines in several styles. They attempt to carve a circle like the moon, a straight line like a stem of wheat, a square like a brick, and jaggedly like the beard.

- 17 People find hope and comfort in expressing wishes with paper cuttings. For example: for a wedding ceremony, red paper cuttings are a traditional and required decoration on the tea set, the dressing table glass, and on other furniture. A big red paper character 'Xi' (happiness) is a traditional must on the newlywed's door. At the birthday party of a senior, the character 'Shou' represents **longevity** and will add delight to the whole celebration; while a pattern of plump children cuddling fish signifies that every year they will be **abundant** in wealth.

longevity *n.* 长寿

abundant *adj.* 丰富的，充裕的



Understanding the Text

Task 1 Answer the following questions for better understanding of the text.

1 What do Chinese arts and crafts represent in Chinese culture?

2 How were the skills of master artisans in Chinese arts and crafts usually passed down?

3 What is the significance of Chinese Bronze Vessels in Chinese history?

4 What are the three stages of bronze culture?

5 In what ways was calligraphy important in ancient China?

6 What are the “four treasures of study” and why are they important for calligraphy?

7 How is calligraphy related to a person’s character and well-being?

8 What are the four major traditional styles of Chinese Embroidery?

9 How did the role of embroidery change over time in Chinese history?

10 When did Chinese Paper-Cutting originate and what was it originally used for?

11 What makes paper-cutting a unique visual art?

12 How do people use paper-cuttings to express wishes?

Task 2 Cloze

(A) understand	(B) glorious	(C) crucial	(D) master	(E) aesthetic
(F) exemplify	(G) precious	(H) unique	(I) symbolizing	(J) treasures
(K) preserve	(L) significance	(M) emerged	(N) variety	(O) representative

China has a long and 1 history in arts and traditional crafts, which are 2 cultural jewels. Among the most 3 ones are Bronze Vessels, Calligraphy, Embroidery, and Paper-Cutting. Bronze Vessels 4 5,000 years ago, leading China into the Bronze Age and having great historical 5. Chinese Calligraphy is both a communication tool and an 6 expression. Practicing it requires “four 7 of study” and concentration, and it reflects one’s soul. Chinese Embroidery, with four traditional styles, dates back to the Shang Dynasty, 8 social status at first and later entering ordinary people’s lives. The Han Dynasty saw its great progress. Paper-Cutting is a 9 visual art. Using simple tools, it shows vivid daily-life themes. It’s easy to learn but hard to 10, and people use it to express wishes, like in weddings and birthday parties.



Further Exploration

Task 3 Vocabulary

A These sentences are about the reading. Complete them with the correct form of the words in the box.

distinguish	essential	magnificent	reflection	craft
offspring	manifest	substitute	brilliant	concentration

- 1 The dragon boat races during the Dragon Boat Festival are a vivid _____ of the spirit of Qu Yuan.
- 2 During exams, students need intense _____ to solve complex math problems efficiently.
- 3 The artisan taught his _____ the secret methods of crafting ceremonial masks.
- 4 The disease may not _____ itself for several months.
- 5 Modern printing has _____ manual copying, yet calligraphy competitions remain popular.
- 6 His _____ leadership kept the team united during the crisis.
- 7 The writer is _____ for his sharp and insightful writing style.
- 8 He is learning the _____ of wood carving.
- 9 Water is _____ for life.
- 10 The _____ palace attracted many tourists.

B Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

distinguish	essential	magnificent	reflection	craft
offspring	manifest	substitute	brilliant	concentration

- 1 The fireworks lit up the night sky with _____ colors, captivating everyone's attention.
- 2 The _____ of the mountains in the lake was very beautiful.
- 3 Her groundbreaking research _____ her as a leader in the field of science.
- 4 Scissors are an _____ tool for paper-cutting, as precise patterns cannot be achieved without them.

- 5 The _____ architecture of the Forbidden City, like paper-cutting, reflects the profound heritage of Chinese culture.
- 6 Paper-cutting is not just a folk _____, but also an art that requires patience and creativity.
- 7 Giant pandas often spend significant time caring for their _____ until they can live independently.
- 8 Fever and coughing are common symptoms that _____ within days after contracting the flu.
- 9 His ability to absorb information was astonishing, but his _____ span was short.
- 10 Theory is of great importance but there's no _____ for practical experience.

Task 4 Sentence Translation

- 1 工艺美术品不仅是人们追求美好生活、满足自身审美需求以及作为赠予他人礼物的体现，更是中国乃至世界的艺术瑰宝。

- 2 在中国众多工艺美术品类中，最具代表性的当属青铜器、刺绣、书法与剪纸。

- 3 这些青铜器广泛应用于生活的诸多领域，如乐器、祭祀礼器与战争兵器等，在中国历史上具有深远意义。

- 4 书法既是信息传递的媒介，更是以审美维度展现个人精神世界的艺术形式。

- 5 刺绣堪称中华艺术宝库中的璀璨明珠，为生活增添许多乐趣。

Task 5 Paragraph Translation

剪纸是中国民间艺术的一种独特形式，已有 2,000 多年历史。剪纸很可能源于汉代，继纸张发明之后。从此，它在中国的许多地方得到了普及。剪纸用的材料和工具很简单：纸和剪刀。剪纸作品通常是用红纸做成的，因为红色在中国传统文化中与幸福相联。因此，在婚礼、春节等喜庆场合，红颜色的剪纸是门窗装饰的首选。



Part Extensive Reading

Read the passage, and complete the tasks that follow.

Text B

Art Should Be a Habit, Not a Luxury

(A) If someone asked whether you like the arts, you'd probably say you do—at least in theory. According to the advocacy group Americans for the Arts, more than two-thirds of U.S. adults say the arts “lift me up beyond everyday experiences.” Still, only 30 percent attended a concert of any type in 2017; 23 percent went to an art museum; 6 percent attended a literary event. Fewer than half actively created art of any kind. The No. 1 reason for this mismatch between values and behaviors is, according to the National Endowment for the Arts, that we don't have time for art—we are weighed down by our day-to-day responsibilities. Maybe you play a little background music while you work or do chores, but even before the pandemic, you rarely saw a live performance, let alone visited a gallery or watched a play. And reading poetry? Perhaps not since high school.

(B) Too often, we let the humdrum reality of life get in the way of the arts, which can feel frivolous by comparison. But this is a mistake. The arts are the opposite of a diversion from reality: they might just be the most realistic glimpse we ever get into the nature and meaning of life. And if you make time for consuming and producing art—the same way you make time for work and exercise and family commitments—you'll find your life getting fuller and happier. “The world is too much with us; late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers,” William Wordsworth wrote in an 1807 poem. “Little we see in Nature that is ours; / We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!” Wordsworth's point was that, left to their own devices, many people allow life to become a numbing routine of working, earning and struggling for more, in search of fulfillment that never seems to

come.

(C) In 1818, the German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer took up this problem. What we might today call the “hamster wheel” he more grandiosely dubbed the “wheel of Ixion,” named after the king in Greek mythology who tried to seduce Zeus’s wife, Hera, and was punished by being bound to a great fiery wheel, spinning for eternity. This wheel was, for Schopenhauer, a metaphor for the worldly rat race, which was governed by an attribute he called Wille, or “will” —our mindless drive for worldly success. Will subjugates us, turning us into Homo economicus, and condemns our days and years to drudgery.

(D) In some respects, will is a capitulation to reality, a response to the fact that each of us must meet our basic needs. But Schopenhauer argued that will in fact leads to a form of delusion in which our focus becomes so narrow that we no longer perceive objective reality. We obsess over our everyday experiences, which are small and subjective, swinging thoughtlessly between desire and boredom. Art, by contrast, forces us to stop looking through the soda straw of our workaday lives and see the world as it truly is. In experiencing art, we contemplate and absorb universal ideas, instead of fixating on the stultifying minutiae of me, me, me.

(E) Engaging with art after worrying over the minutiae of your routine is like looking at the horizon after you’ve spent too long staring intently at a particular object: Your perception of the outside world expands. This refocusing enables what the Stanford neuroscientist Andrew Huberman calls panoramic vision, widening our perspective of true reality by allowing us to see more. In addition to increasing awareness of the broader world, Huberman shows that narrow vision heightens our fear response, but widening our perspective lowers stress.

(F) Art opens our mental aperture and provides relief from the narrow tedium of will. “The true work of art leads us ... [to] that which exists perpetually and time and time again in innumerable manifestations,” Schopenhauer wrote in 1851. Think of a time when you heard a piece of music and wanted to cry. Or recall the flutter of your heart as you stared at a delicate, uncannily lifelike sculpture. Or maybe your dizziness as you emerged from a narrow side street in an unfamiliar city and found yourself in a beautiful town square; for me, it was the Piazza San Marco in Venice, with its exquisitely preserved Renaissance architecture. Odds are, you didn’t feel as if the object of beauty was a narcotic, deadening you. Instead, it probably precipitated a visceral awakening, much like the shock from a lungful (两肺的容量, 同 mouthful) of pure oxygen after breathing smoggy air. Art transcends mere good feelings. It can provoke in us the full range of experience and emotion. A melancholy song may inspire sadness, which can be a strangely ecstatic experience. Even the experience of fear can make art seem all the more sublime. None of this would be the slightest bit paradoxical to Schopenhauer: The truth can be sad or scary, but it is always a source of intense

satisfaction.

(G) If you are among the 73 percent of Americans who feel that art is “pure pleasure to experience and participate in,” you might see it the same way you see eating out, or skydiving: as a luxury item in your limited budgets of time and money. As such, it probably gets the same sort of treatment as any minor hobby. Don’t make this error. Treat art less like a diversionary pleasure and more like exercise or sleep or loving relationships: a necessity for a life full of deep satisfaction. I’m not saying you need to quit your job and become a poet. But you should make a daily effort to get off the wheel of Ixion. Start by programming art into your schedule, beginning with 15 minutes before or after lunch if you can. Make a list of music, poetry, literature, and visual art you want to enjoy and learn more about. Day by day, make your way down your list. You will be amazed by how much you can cover in just a short window, and even more amazed at the transformative effect it will have on your appreciation for life, seemingly even in areas unrelated to the arts.

(H) Next, dabble in art yourself. Take a class in pottery or watercolor, or write a little poetry. Though no empirical studies exist measuring the amount of existential awareness one derives from making art, a few studies suggest profound psychic benefits. Try not to focus too much on your performance. The point isn’t that everyone needs to be a great artist; it is that we all could benefit from opening our consciousness to the crystalline awareness that exists in the creative realm.

(I) Teachings about the moral and emotional benefits of art are arguably as old as humankind’s ancient sacred scriptures. For example, the soul-deadening drudgery of will is expressed concisely in the Book of Genesis; it is Adam’s penance for eating the forbidden fruit: “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.”

(J) But nowhere does God tell Adam that he cannot find any relief from this drudgery. Christians believe that people are made in God’s image; God is a creator of a world “pleasing to the eye and good for food.” It is no biblical stretch (牵强附会) for a believer to think that art is a reminder of the bliss lost in the fall of mankind. Adding more art into your life may not transport you to the Garden of Eden, but the idea is surely worth putting to the test nonetheless. You have nothing to lose but a few turns on the wheel of Ixion.



Vocabulary

mismatch *n.* 不匹配

advocacy *n.* 倡导

gallery *n.* 美术馆，画廊

humdrum *n.* 单调乏味

frivolous *adj.* 轻浮的

diversion *n.* 消遣；转移

grandiosely *adv.* 夸张地；宏伟地

mythology *n.* 神话；神话学

subjugate *v.* 征服；使屈服

condemn *v.* 谴责

capitulation *n.* 投降；屈服

delusion *n.* 错觉；幻觉

contemplate *v.* 沉思；考虑

relief *n.* 救济，援助

obsess *v.* 使痴迷；使着迷

moral *adj.* 道德的

stretch *v.* 伸展；拉长

contain *v.* 包含；容纳

profound *adj.* 深远的

transformative *adj.* 变革性的

creative *adj.* 有创造力的

innumerable *adj.* 数不胜数的，无数的

psychic *adj.* 精神的；心灵的

derive *v.* 起源于

paradoxical *adj.* 自相矛盾的；反常的

ecstatic *adj.* 狂喜的；欣喜若狂的

flutter *v.* 飘动；（心脏等）快速跳动

Skimming and Scanning

The following are several statements attached to the text we have just read. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once.

- () 1 Art can make us feel a visceral awakening, similar to getting a shock of fresh air, and it can arouse a wide range of emotions in us, not just positive feelings.
- () 2 Many people in the U.S. claim to like the arts in theory, but in practice, few actually engage in art-related activities due to the lack of time caused by daily responsibilities.
- () 3 Arthur Schopenhauer compared the worldly rat race to the “wheel of Ixion,” where people are driven by the “will” for worldly success and are condemned to a life of drudgery.

- () 4 People often view art as a luxury, like eating out or skydiving, but it should be regarded as a necessity for a fulfilling life, and we should schedule time for it daily.
- () 5 Engaging with art after being preoccupied with the details of daily life can expand our perception of the outside world, similar to looking at the horizon after focusing on a specific object.
- () 6 Art forces us to look beyond the narrow and subjective experiences of our daily lives and helps us perceive the world as it really is, unlike the “will” which leads to a form of delusion.
- () 7 There are some studies indicating that creating art can bring profound psychic benefits, and we should try it without being overly concerned about our performance.
- () 8 The idea that art has moral and emotional benefits is as old as ancient sacred scriptures, such as the story in the Book of Genesis about Adam’s penance for eating the forbidden fruit.
- () 9 We should not let the dull and ordinary aspects of life prevent us from engaging with the arts, as the arts can offer us a more realistic understanding of life’s nature and meaning.
- () 10 Christians believe that since people are made in God’s image and God is a creator, art can be seen as a reminder of the bliss that was lost when mankind fell, and adding art to life is worth trying.



Part IV Extracurricular Exercises

Speaking Task

Deliver a 2~3 minute speech on the topic of **Exploring the Role of Art in Daily Life**.

Useful Expressions

accessibility 可及性

mental well-being 心理健康

community engagement 社区参与

cultural identity 文化认同

art education 艺术教育

social inclusion 社会包容

self-expression 自我表达

aesthetic value 审美价值

cultural heritage 文化遗产

inspiration 灵感

emotional response 情感反应

critical thinking 批判性思维

artistic element 艺术元素

composition 构图

genre 流派

impressionism 印象派

Reading in Depth

Passage One

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

When is cleaning walls a crime? When you're doing it to create art, obviously. A number of street artists around the world have started expressing themselves through a practice known as reverse

graffiti (涂鸦). They find dirty surfaces and paint them with images or messages using cleaning brushes or pressure hoses (高压水管). Either way, it's the same principle: the image is made by cleaning away the dirt. Each artist has their own individual style but all artists share a common aim: to draw attention to the pollution in our cities. The UICs Paul Curtis, better known as Moose, operates around Leeds and London and has been commissioned by a number of companies to make reverse graffiti advertisements.

Brazilian artist, Alexandre Orion, turned one of Sao Paulo's transport tunnels into an amazing wall painting in 2006 by getting rid of the dirt. Made up of a series of white skulls (颅骨), the painting reminds drivers of the effect their pollution is having on the planet. "Every motorist sits in the comfort of their car, but they don't give any consideration to the price their comfort has for the environment and consequently for themselves," says Orion.

The anti-pollution message of the reverse graffiti artists confuses city authorities since the main argument against graffiti is that it spoils the appearance of both types of property: public and private. This was what Leeds City Council said about Moose's work: "Leeds residents want to live in clean and attractive neighborhoods. We view this kind of advertising as environmental damage and will take strong action against it." Moose was ordered to "clean up his act." How was he supposed to do this: by making all property he had cleaned dirty again?

As for the Brazilian artist's work, the authorities were annoyed but could find nothing to charge him with. They had no other option but to clean the tunnel—but only the parts Alexandre had already cleaned. The artist merely continued his campaign on the other side. The city officials then decided to take drastic action. They not only cleaned the whole tunnel but every tunnel in Sao Paulo.

() **1. What do we learn from the passage about reverse graffiti?**

- A) It uses paint to create anti-pollution images.
- B) It creates a lot of trouble for local residents.
- C) It causes lots of distraction to drivers.
- D) It turns dirty walls into artistic works.

() **2. What do reverse graffiti artists try to do?**

- A) Publicize their artistic pursuit.
- B) Beautify the city environment.
- C) Raise public awareness of environmental pollution.
- D) Express their dissatisfaction with local governments.

() **3. What do we learn about Brazilian artist Alexandre Orion?**

- A) He was good at painting white skulls.
- B) He chose tunnels to do his graffiti art.

- C) He suggested banning all polluting cars.
- D) He was fond of doing creative artworks.

() **4. What does the author imply about Leeds City Council’s decision?**

- A) It is simply absurd.
- B) It is well-informed.
- C) It is rather unexpected.
- D) It is quite sensible.

() **5. How did Sao Paulo city officials handle Alexandre Orion’s reverse graffiti?**

- A) They made him clean all the tunnels in Sao Paulo.
- B) They took drastic action to ban all reverse graffiti.
- C) They charged him with polluting tunnels in the city.
- D) They made it impossible for him to practice his art.

Passage Two

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

In spring, chickens start laying again, bringing a welcome source of protein at winter’s end. So it’s no surprise that cultures around the world celebrate spring by honoring the egg.

Some traditions are simple, like the red eggs that get baked into Greek Easter breads. Others elevate the egg into a fancy art, like the heavily jewel-covered “eggs” that were favored by the Russians starting in the 19th century.

One ancient form of egg art comes to us from Ukraine. For centuries, Ukrainians have been drawing complicated patterns on eggs. Contemporary artists have followed this tradition to create eggs that speak to the anxieties of our age: Life is precious, and delicate. Eggs are, too.

“There’s something about their delicate nature that appeals to me,” says New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast. Several years ago, she became interested in eggs and learned the traditional Ukrainian technique to draw her very modern characters. “I’ve broken eggs at every stage of the process—from the very beginning to the very, very end.”

But there’s an appeal in that vulnerability. “There’s part of this sickening horror of knowing you’re walking on the edge with this, that I kind of like, knowing that it could all fall apart at any second.” Chast’s designs, such as a worried man alone in a tiny rowboat, reflect that delicateness.

Traditional Ukrainian decorated eggs also spoke to those fears. The elaborate patterns were believed to offer protection against evil.

“There’s an ancient legend that as long as these eggs are made, evil will not prevail in the world,” says Joan Brander, a Canadian egg-painter who has been painting eggs for over 60 years, having learned the art from her Ukrainian relatives.

The tradition, dating back to 300 B.C., was later incorporated into the Christian church. The old symbols, however, still endure. A decorated egg with a bird on it, given to a young married couple, is a wish for children. A decorated egg thrown into the field would be a wish for a good harvest.

() **6. Why do people in many cultures prize the egg?**

- A) It is a welcome sign of the coming of spring.
- B) It is their major source of protein in winter.
- C) It can easily be made into a work of art.
- D) It can bring wealth and honor to them.

() **7. What do we learn about the decorated “eggs” in Russia?**

- A) They are shaped like jewel cases.
- B) They are cherished by the rich.
- C) They are heavily painted in red.
- D) They are favored as a form of art.

() **8. Why have contemporary artists continued the egg art tradition?**

- A) Eggs serve as an enduring symbol of new life.
- B) Eggs have an oval shape appealing to artists.
- C) Eggs reflect the anxieties of people today.
- D) Eggs provide a unique surface to paint on.

() **9. Why does Chast enjoy the process of decorating eggs?**

- A) She never knows if the egg will break before the design is completed.
- B) She can add multiple details to the design to communicate her idea.
- C) She always derives great pleasure from designing something new.
- D) She is never sure what the final design will look like until the end.

() **10. What do we learn from the passage about egg-painting?**

- A) It originated in the eastern part of Europe.
- B) It has a history of over two thousand years.
- C) It is the most time-honored form of fancy art.
- D) It is especially favored as a church decoration.

Skimming and Scanning

In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

The Health Benefits of Knitting

A) About 15 years ago, I was invited to join a knitting group. I agreed to give it a try.

B) My mother had taught me to knit at 15, and I knitted in class throughout college and for a few years thereafter. Then decades passed without my touching a knitting needle. But within two Mondays in the group, I was hooked, not only on knitting but also on crocheting (钩织), and I was on my way to becoming a highly productive crafter.

C) I've made countless baby blankets, sweaters, scarves, hats, caps for newborns. I take a knitting project with me everywhere, especially when I have to sit still and listen. As I discovered in college, when my hands are busy, my mind stays focused on the here and now.

D) It seems, too, that I'm part of a national renewal of interest in needle and other handicrafts (手工艺). The Craft Yarn Council reports that a third of women ages 25-35 now knit or crochet. Even men and schoolchildren are swelling the ranks, among them my friend's three small grandsons. Last April, the council created a "Stitch Away Stress" campaign in honor of National Stress Awareness Month. Dr. Herbert Benson, a pioneer in mind/body medicine and author of The Relaxation Response, says that the repetitive action of needlework can induce a relaxed state like that associated with meditation (沉思) and yoga. Once you get beyond the initial learning curve, knitting and crocheting can lower heart rate and blood pressure.

E) But unlike meditation, craft activities result in tangible and often useful products that can enhance self-esteem. I keep photos of my singular accomplishments on my cellphone to boost my spirits when needed.

F) Since the 1990s, the council has surveyed hundreds of thousands of knitters and crocheters, who routinely list stress relief and creative fulfillment as the activities' main benefits. Among them is the father of a prematurely born daughter who reported that during the baby's five weeks in the intensive care unit, "learning how to knit infant hats gave me a sense of purpose during a time that I felt very helpless. It's a hobby that I've stuck with, and it continues to help me cope with stress at work, provide a sense of order in hectic (忙乱的) days, and allow my brain time to solve problems."

G) A recent email from the yarn(纺纱) company Red Heart titled “Health Benefits of Crocheting and Knitting” prompted me to explore what else might be known about the health value of activities like knitting. My research revealed that the rewards go well beyond replacing stress and anxiety with the satisfaction of creation.

H) For example, Karen Hayes, a life coach in Toronto, conducts knitting therapy programs, including Knit to Quit to help smokers give up the habit, and Knit to Heal for people coping with health crises, like a cancer diagnosis or serious illness of a family member. Schools and prisons with craft programs report that they have a calming effect and enhance social skills. And having to follow instructions on complex craft projects can improve children’s math skills.

I) Some people find that craftwork helps them control their weight. Just as it’s challenging to smoke while knitting, when hands are holding needles and hooks, there’s less snacking and mindless eating out of boredom.

J) I’ve found that my handiwork with yarn has helped my arthritic (患关节炎的) fingers remain more dexterous (灵巧的) as I age. A woman encouraged to try knitting and crocheting after developing an autoimmune disease that caused a lot of hand pain reported on the Craft Yarn Council site that her hands are now less stiff and painful.

K) A 2009 University of British Columbia study of 38 women with an eating disorder who were taught to knit found that learning the craft led to significant improvements. Seventy-four percent of the women said the activity lessened their fears and kept them from thinking about their problem.

L) Betsan Corkhill, a wellness coach in Bath, England, and author of the book Knit for Health & Wellness, established a website, Stitchlinks, to explore the value of what she calls therapeutic knitting. Among her respondents, 54 percent of those who were clinically depressed said that knitting made them feel happy or very happy. In a study of 60 self-selected people with persistent pain, Ms. Corkhill and colleagues reported that knitting enabled them to redirect their focus, reducing their awareness of pain. She suggested that the brain can process just so much at once, and that activities like knitting and crocheting make it harder for the brain to register pain signals. Perhaps most exciting is research that suggests that crafts like knitting and crocheting may help to keep off a decline in brain function with age. In a 2011 study, researchers led Dr. Yonas Geda at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester interviewed a random (随机的) sample of 1,321 people ages 70-89, most of whom were cognitively (在认知方面) normal, about the cognitive activities they engaged in late in life. The study, published in the Journal of Neuropsychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences, found that those who engaged in crafts like knitting and crocheting had a diminished chance of developing mild cognitive disorder and memory loss.

M) Although it is possible that only people who are cognitively healthy would pursue such

activities, those who read newspapers or magazines or played music did not show similar benefits. The researchers speculate that craft activities promote the development of nerve pathways in the brain that help to maintain cognitive health.

N) In support of that suggestion, a 2014 study by Denise C. Park of the University of Texas at Dallas and colleagues demonstrated that learning to knit or do digital photography enhanced memory function in older adults. Those who engaged in activities that were not intellectually challenging either in a social group or alone, did not show such improvements.

O) Given that sustained social contacts have been shown to support health and a long life, those wishing to maximize the health value of crafts might consider joining a group of like-minded folks. I for one try not to miss a single weekly meeting of my knitting group.

- () 1 When the author was a college student, she found that knitting helped her concentrate.
- () 2 Knitting can help people stay away from tobacco.
- () 3 Even men and children are now joining the army of knitters.
- () 4 Being a member of a crafts group enhances one's health and prolongs one's life.
- () 5 Knitting diverts people's attention from their pain.
- () 6 The author learnt to knit as a teenager, but it was not until she was much older that she became keenly interested.
- () 7 When people are knitting, they tend to eat fewer snacks.
- () 8 Survey findings show that knitting can help people relieve stress.
- () 9 According to a study, knitters and crocheters are less likely to suffer mild cognitive damage.
- () 10 The products of knitting can increase one's sense of self-respect.



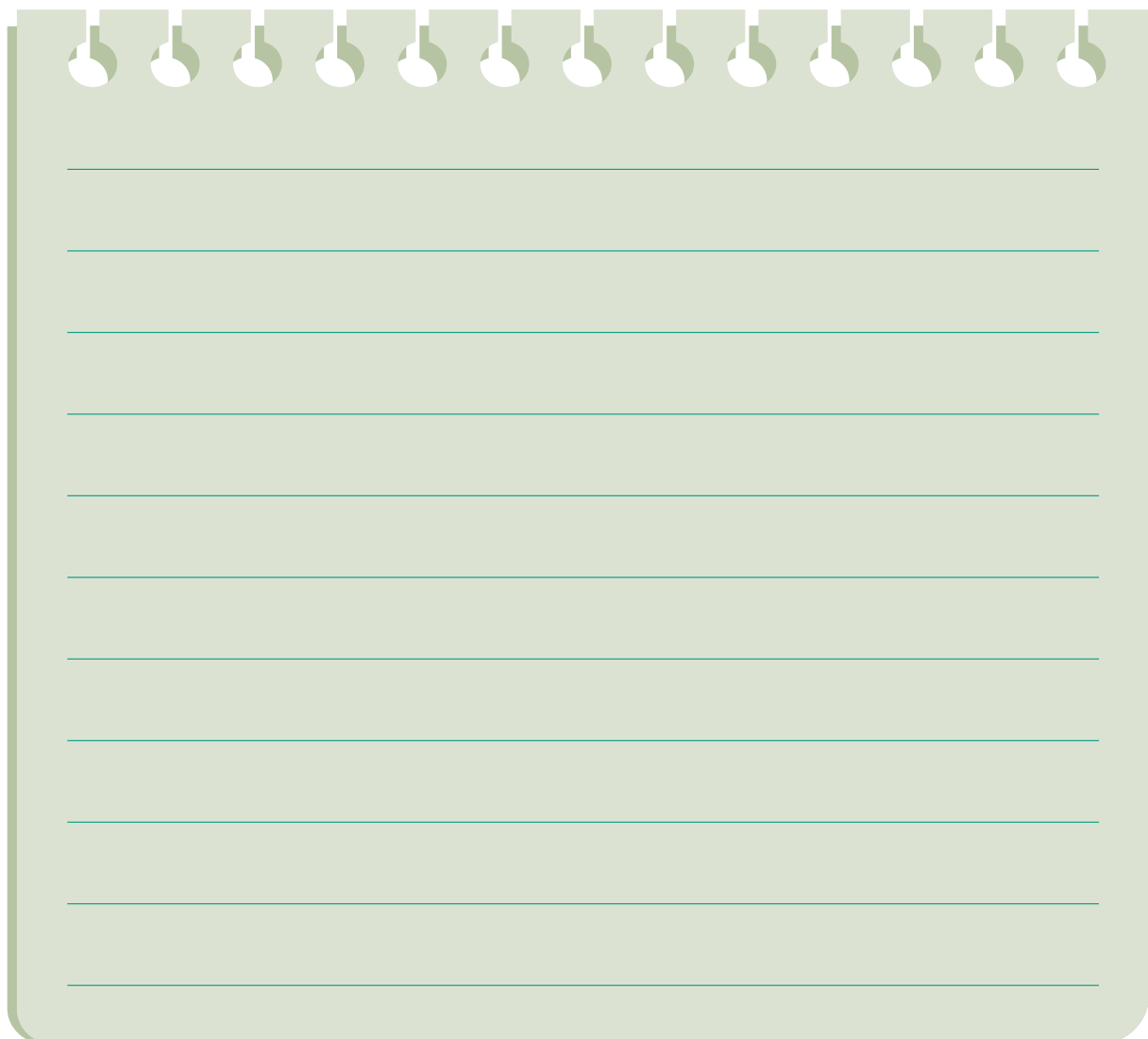
Writing

Directions: For this part, you are going to write an essay on the topic below. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

Topic: The Role of Art in Modern Society

Requirements:

- Express your views on how art influences society and individuals.
- Provide examples to support your arguments.



A green notepad with a spiral binding at the top. It features ten horizontal lines for writing, providing a space for the student to draft their essay.