The visual arts

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each art word.

Word | Technique | Movement | Person | Quality

1 brushstroke [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 impressionism [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 curator [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 vivid [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 composition [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 contemporary [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 sculptor [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 texture [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 The brushstrokes were very texture. _____
2 She is curator of the museum. _____
3 The composition of painting is balanced. _____
4 This is contemporary art from now days. _____
5 The colours are very vivid and bright colours. _____
6 He is famous sculptor from the city. _____
7 Impressionism was movement in the 19th century. _____
8 The texture of the paint feel rough. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For bright, intense colours: vivid / dull.
2 For the arrangement of elements within a work: composition / accident.
3 For a person who selects and organises exhibitions: curator / visitor.
4 For art created in the present era: contemporary / ancient.
5 For the surface quality of a painted or sculpted work: texture / colour.
6 For someone who creates three-dimensional works: sculptor / painter.

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4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

brushstrokes | composition | contemporary | curator | impressionism | sculptor | texture | vivid

Profile A: She works as a 1 _____ at a major museum, choosing which pieces of 2 _____ art to display each season.
Profile B: His paintings are known for loose, visible 3 _____ inspired by 4 _____.
Profile C: The artist's use of 5 _____ colour makes every painting stand out, and critics often praise her balanced 6 _____.
Profile D: As a 7 _____, he pays close attention to the 8 _____ of the stone he carves.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Why abstract art divides opinion

Abstract art continues to divide audiences, with some viewers finding it deeply moving and others dismissing it as meaningless. Part of the difficulty lies in expectation: viewers accustomed to realistic, representational painting may struggle to engage with a composition that offers no recognisable subject. Curators increasingly argue that abstract art rewards patience, since elements such as colour, texture and brushstroke can communicate emotion directly, without the need for a literal subject. Contemporary galleries often provide context alongside abstract works, helping visitors understand the artist's intention rather than dismissing the piece too quickly.

1 What does abstract art continue to do? _____
2 Where does part of the difficulty lie, according to the text? _____
3 What do curators increasingly argue about abstract art? _____
4 What can communicate emotion directly, without a literal subject? _____
5 What do contemporary galleries often provide? _____
6 What does this context help visitors do? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The colours were bright and intense. VIVID _____
2 She chooses the artworks for the museum. CURATOR _____
3 The paint felt rough to the touch. TEXTURE _____
4 The arrangement of shapes felt balanced. COMPOSITION _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account describing your reaction to a piece of art (real or imaginary), covering style, technique and personal response.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Technique 2 Movement 3 Person 4 Quality 5 Technique 6 Movement 7 Person 8 Quality

2 Corrections

1 very textured 2 curator of the museum 3 composition of the painting
4 contemporary art from today 5 very vivid colours 6 a famous sculptor
7 a movement in the 19th century 8 feels rough

3 Suitable descriptions

1 vivid 2 composition 3 curator 4 contemporary 5 texture 6 sculptor

4 Profiles

1 curator 2 contemporary 3 brushstrokes 4 impressionism 5 vivid 6 composition 7 sculptor 8 texture

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Divide audiences.
2 In expectation.
3 That abstract art rewards patience.
4 Elements such as colour, texture and brushstroke.
5 Context alongside abstract works.
6 Understand the artist's intention rather than dismissing the piece too quickly.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The colours were vivid. 2 She is the curator. 3 The paint had a rough texture. 4 The composition felt balanced.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.