**Theme 4: Functions of art**

**COURSE TEXT and WORKSHEET (required to be completed and submitted)**

**Name and parallel group (A or B): ………………………………………………………………………..**

*Before you read*

**Warm-up questions**

What can art do in society? What is the most important of function of art?

Which one is more important: individual functions or social functions of

art? Can an artist be a politician?

**Skimming the text**

Read the text’s title (headings and subheadings) and

 Write some of the text’s keywords in the following blanks.

……………… ……………… ………………… ………………

 Write the names of some important people and places given in the

reading passage.

……………… ………………… ………………… ………………

 Read the first sentences of each paragraph. What do you think the

reading is probably about?

………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

**Group work (classroom task)**

Discuss the following terms in groups and compare your answers with

your partners.

 Functions of art  Symbols

 Imagination  Entertainment

 Rituals  Propaganda

*Part Ι. Reading*

**Functions of art**

[1] Art has had a great number of different functions throughout its history,

making its purpose difficult to abstract or quantify to any single concept.

This does not imply that the purpose of art is ‘vague’, but that it has had

many unique, different reasons for being created. Some of these functions

of art are provided in the following outline.

**Non-motivated functions of art**

[2] The non-motivated purposes of art are those that are integral to being

human, transcend the individual, or do not fulfill a specific external

purpose. In this sense, art, as creativity, is something humans must do by

their very nature.

1. *Basic human instinct for harmony, balance, rhythm.* Art at this level is

not an action or an object, but an internal appreciation of balance and

harmony (beauty), and therefore an aspect of being human.

2. *Experience of the mysterious.* Art provides a way to experience one's

self in relation to the universe. This experience may often come

unmotivated, as one appreciates art, music or poetry. “The most

beautiful thing we can experience is the mysteries. It is the source of all

true art and science” *Albert Einstein*.

3. *Expression of the imagination.* Art provides a means to express the

imagination in ways that are not tied to the formality of spoken or

written language. Unlike words, which come in sequences and each of

which have a definite meaning, art provides a range of forms, symbols

and ideas with meanings that are malleable.

4. *Ritualistic and symbolic functions.* In many cultures, art is used in

rituals, performances and dances as a decoration or symbol. While

these often have no specific (motivated) purpose, anthropologists know

that they often serve a purpose at the level of meaning within a

particular culture. This meaning is not furnished by any one individual,

but is often the result of many generations of change, and of a

cosmological relationship within the culture.

**Motivated functions of art**

[3] Motivated purposes of art refer to intentional, conscious actions on the

part of the artists or creator. These may be to bring about political change,

to comment on an aspect of society, to convey a specific emotion or mood,

to address personal psychology, to illustrate another discipline, to sell a

product, or simply as a form of communication.

1. *Communication.* Art, at its simplest, is a form of communication. As

most forms of communication have an intent or goal directed toward

another individual, this is a motivated purpose. Emotions, moods and

feelings are also communicated through art.

2. *Art as entertainment*. Art may seek to bring about a particular emotion

or mood, for the purpose of relaxing or entertaining the viewer. This is

often the function of the art industries of motion pictures and video

games.

3. *The Avante-Garde Art for political change.* One of the defining

functions of early twentieth century art has been to use visual images to

bring about political change. Art movements that had this goal—

Surrealism, Russian Constructivism, and Abstract Expressionism.

4. *Art for psychological and healing purposes*. Art is also used by art

therapists, psychotherapists and clinical psychologists as art therapy.

The end product is not the principal goal in this case, but rather a

process of healing, through creative acts, is sought. The resultant piece

of artwork may also offer insight into the troubles experienced by the

subject and may suggest suitable approaches to be used in more

conventional forms of psychiatric therapy.

5. *Art for propaganda, or commercialism.* Art is often utilized as a form

of propaganda, and thus can be used to subtly influence popular

conceptions or mood. In a similar way, art that tries to sell a product

also influences mood and emotion. In both cases, the purpose of art

here is to subtly manipulate the viewer into a particular emotional or

psychological response toward a particular idea or object.

[4] The functions of art described above are not mutually exclusive, as many

of them may overlap. For example, art for the purpose of entertainment may

also seek to sell a product, i.e. the movie or video game.

*Part ΙΙ. Word study: Pronunciations, definitions and examples.*

***Translate (in writing) and learn the following vocabulary:***

**Abstract (v.)** /æbˈstrækt/

(1) Consider (something) theoretically or separately from something else.

(2) Summarize.

*Send me the* ***abstract*** *of the article.*

**Anthropologist (n.)** /ˈænθrəˈpa:lədʒist/

A social scientist who specializes in anthropology which is the study

mankind.

*As an* ***anthropologist****, you should understand the situations better.*

**Cosmologic (adj.)** /kazˈmalədʒic/

Pertaining to the branch of astronomy dealing with the origin and history

and structure and dynamics of the universe, universal.

*I cannot do anything, it is a* ***cosmological*** *issue.*

**Furnish (v.) /**ˈfəːnɪʃ/

(1) Supply someone with (something). (2) Give (something) to someone.

*He promised to* ***furnish*** *the house before the Christmas, but he did not.*

**Heal (v.) /**hi:l/

(Of a person or treatment) Cause (a wound, injury, or person) to become

sound or healthy again.

*Revenge does not* ***heal*** *you, be patient.*

**Illustrate (v.) /**ˈɪləstreɪt/

Explain or make (something) clear by using examples, charts, pictures, etc.

*She* ***illustrated*** *educational opportunities available for the woman.*

**Malleable (adj.) /**ˈmalɪəb(ə)l/

(1) Able to be hammered or pressed permanently out of shape without

breaking or cracking. (2) Easily influenced.

*Uranium A white* ***malleable*** *metal which is softer than steel.*

**Manipulate (v.) /**məˈnɪpjʊleɪt/

(1) Alter, edit, change. (2) Handle or control (a tool, mechanism, etc.),

typically in a skillful manner.

*You did not lie but* ***manipulate*** *the truth.*

**Outline (n.) /**ˈaʊtlʌɪn/

A line or set of lines enclosing or indicating the shape of an object in a

sketch or diagram.

*Before using the colors, see the* ***outline*** *closely.*

**Propaganda (n.) /**prɒpəˈɡændə/

Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote

or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.

*We are bombarded with* ***propaganda*** *on ' healthy ' eating for the heart****.***

**Psychiatry (adj.)** /sīˈkīətri/

The study and treatment of mental illness, emotional disturbance, and

abnormal behavior.

*She is studying* ***psychiatry*** *not psychology.*

**Resultant (n.) /**riˈzəltnt/

Occurring or produced as a result or consequence of something.

*No one is guilty; this is the* ***resultant*** *of your own behavior.*

**Ritual (n.) /**ˈrɪtʃʊəl/

A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed

according to a prescribed order.

*Do not play with your cell phone, you are in a mourning* ***ritual****!*

**Sequence (n.) /**ˈsikuwəns/

(1) A particular order in which related events, movements, or things

follow each other. (2) A set of related events, movements, or things that

follow each other in a particular order.

*If you want to reach to your dream, you should follow this* ***sequence****: study*

*hard, finish your education and find a prestigious job.*

**Throughout (prep.) /**θruːˈaʊt/

(1) All the way through. (2) During.

*He became innocent* ***throughout*** *the story.*

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**Utilize (v.) /**ˈjuːtɪlʌɪz/

Make practical and effective use of.

*If you want to* ***utilize*** *this machine you should have enough skill.*

*Part ΙΙΙ. Exercises*

**A. Open questions (classroom task)**

Based on the text you have read, answer the following questions orally.

1- Name some of the motivated functions of art?

2- Should any artwork have a function?

3- Do you think the motivated functions decrease the artistic value of

artworks?

4- Name some of the non-motivated functions of art?

5- Which one do you appreciate more; the motivated art or the nonmotivated

art?

**B. Comprehension check**

Read each statement and decide whether it is true or false. Write “T”

before true statements and “F” before false ones.

…..... 1. The purpose of art is not vague, but it has many unique reasons

for being created.

……. 2. “Expression of the imagination” is one of the motivated

functions of art.

……. 3. Art provides a range of forms, symbols and ideas with malleable

meanings unlike words.

……. 4. Almost all the functions of art are motivated.

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……. 5. Art is used by art therapists, psychotherapists and clinical

psychologists as a healing instrument.

……. 6. Art, illegally manipulate the viewer’s emotional or psychological

response toward a particular idea or object.

**C. Multiple choice questions**

Read the reading passage carefully and select the most appropriate

answer for each of the following multiple-choice test items.

1- The non-motivated art is……………

A) that is integral to being human.

B) transcends the individual.

C) does not fulfill a specific external purpose.

D) All of the above

2- All of the followings are the instances of ‘art for political change

except ………

A) Surrealism. B) Constructivism.

C) Abstract Expressionism. D) Cubism.

3- Motion pictures and video games industries employ art as

…………..

A) harmony.

B) entertainment.

C) communication.

D) mysteries.

4- “Art provides a range of forms, symbols and ideas with meanings

that are malleable”. This sentence is in line with …………..

A) Experience of the mysterious.

B) Art as entertainment.

C) Expression of imagination.

D) Human instinct for harmony.

5- The purpose of art for propaganda is to………………

A) Manipulate the viewer’s emotions.

B) Convince the viewer.

C) Make the viewer happy.

D) Make some money for the viewer.

**D. Word formation**

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words from the following table.

Make necessary changes.

**Noun Verb Adjective Adverb**

illustration illustrate illustrative illustratively

manipulation manipulate manipulative manipulatively

propaganda propagandistic propagandistically

sequence sequential sequentially

1. He is a good teacher and tries to ……………. what he teaches with

the aid of tables and diagrams.

2. In order to prove what you say, there are some …………….

techniques of discussion.

3. In order to be accepted for M.A., one should have a logical program

and follow it …………….

4. These ……………. shows do not make me change my mind about

western policies of human-rights.

5. The chronological ……………. gives the book an element of

structure.

**E. Synonym finding**

Find a single word in the passage which means:

1 to mean indirectly (para.1) ……………………..

2 perform, do (para.2) …………………….

3 exact, clear (para.2) …………………….

4 ceremony (para.2) …………………….

5 cause (para.3) ……………………..

6 vision, idea (para.3) ……………………..

7 usual (para.3) ……………………..

8 in the direction of (para.3) ……………………..

9 limited, private (para.4) …………………….

10 bidirectional (para.4) ……………………..

**F. Matching**

Match the words in column Ι with their appropriate equivalents in

column ΙΙ. Insert the letters in the parentheses provided. There are more

choices in column ΙΙ than required.

**column Ι column ΙΙ**

1 vague (……) a. transmit

2 unique (……) b. on purpose

3 convey (……) c. treatment, cure

4 seek (……) d. psychology

5 intentional (……) e. unclear, blurred

6 instinct (……) f. single, sole

7 therapy (……) g. look for, search

i. natural feeling

**G. Cloze test (classroom task)**

There are some missing words in the following text. Find the best

choice for each blank and mark it in your book.

Art serves many different functions, which are typically divided into

personal, physical and social functions. Art benefits individuals and groups

in a …..(1)….. of different ways depending on the interplay between the

individuals and the art and the type of artwork itself. Some artworks have

physical functions; for example, some early groups in human …..(2)…..

decorated and designed their weapons and tools ….(3)….. Because the

artwork is imposed directly onto a physical object with a specific function,

these pieces of art have physical functions. Another form of artwork with a

physical function is the …..(4)…. and design of buildings and other

structures. Social functions are some of the most common functions of art.

These types of artwork are intended to convey some sort of message, often

of a religious or political ….(5)….. Personal functions are difficult to

characterize. Because art can mean different things to different people based

on their personal life history and experiences, these personal functions vary

greatly. Two different people may receive vastly different personal

functions from the same piece of artwork.

**1**. A) variety B) certainty C) diversity D) conformity

**2**. A) geography B) knowledge C) history D) time

**3**. A) naturally B) artistically C) artificially D) carefully

**4**. A) poetry B) music C) theater D) architecture

**5**. A) manifesto B) intonation C) art D) nature

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Source: KHAGHANINEJAD, Saber Mohammad. *English for the Students of Art*. Fars: Shiraz University Press 2016. ISBN 9789644626636.

(Adapted for Academic English course, Catholic theological faculty, Charles University, Prague.)