

LANGUAGE TEST

Name:-----

My English Level(please underline the level you consider corresponds to yours):

Basic

Intermediate

Upper Intermediate

Advanced

Other languages spoken:-----

Part 1: replace the following prepositions in the text (some will be used more than once):

as / for / in / of / on / to

Art has facilitated diplomacy since the time of the pharaohs. Then, painters were commissioned (1) _____ decorate tombs with images of the gods their residents needed to appease en route to the other side. (2) _____ comparison, the requirement that the British government's art collection (GAC) promote Britain and its artistic achievements seems less than demanding. Why then has it taken until now for this century-old cache of art, paid (3) _____ by British taxpayers, to reach a wider audience than the chosen few who enter the buildings for which it was bought?

When I put the question to GAC director Penny Johnson, this historian of British art replies: Finding the right venue was the problem. Given that GAC has been in existence (4) _____ 113 years, this response is not convincing. More probable is that the logistics of curating 13,500 works in more than 400 buildings in 131 countries on a shoestring budget left few resources for it.

Enter Whitechapel Gallery director IwonaBlazwick. On the GAC's acquisitions committee, she perceived that it would make a perfect chapter (5) _____ a cycle of exhibitions at the Whitechapel devoted to art collections, the result is a five-part show which kicked off (6) _____ June with a selection of 70 pieces chosen by members of the political establishment.

With visitor numbers at 60,000, the Whitechapel's show is a remarkable reversal for GAC, whose watchword has always been discretion. The building where I meet Johnson is hidden down an alley off London's Tottenham Court Road. Although the collection has been accessible online since 2011, public visits to the site are restricted (7) _____ three evenings a month. That they are fully booked testifies to the level of interest.

(8) _____ the 1930s, when the works started to be displayed overseas, they truly became ambassadors for their country. Chosen to reflect connections between the artist or subject and the host country which illuminate shared historical reflections and cultural links, this is art that essentially reflects a nation's fantasy (9) _____ itself.

It is also a window on how that fantasy has changed. In Cairo, for example, the British embassy once thought it appropriate to greet Egyptian guests with an oil painting of a Victorian officer dressed in opulent Arab dress. More recently, such naïve orientalism has been countered by an abstract painting of narrow stripes by Bridget Riley, whose restrained colours were inspired by her visit to ancient Egyptian tombs.

Pretending that I am the new consul (10) _____ San Francisco, Johnson pulls out a rack bearing a print by John Piper of St Mary's Paddington, a fine neo-gothic church. 'I might say that this particular building resonates with the arts and crafts building you are living in [in San Francisco] and you can talk about the connection.'

Part 2: circle the word closest in meaning to the underlined words:

1. Decorate – adorn / allocate / decor
2. Appease – pacify / please / recognise
3. Achievements – actions / accomplishments / performances
4. Venue – conduit / platform / gallery
5. Shoestring – limited / narrow / huge
6. Kick off – hurt / begin / plan
7. Testify – indicate / prove / test
8. Overseas – foreign / abroad / exotic
9. Greet – acknowledge / welcome / receive
10. Narrow – thin / compressed / shoestring