



Beispieltest 1

Read the passage below and answer the questions.



Um Zeit zu sparen ...

... müssen Sie schnell lesen und den Sinn des Textes erfassen.

1 Lesen Sie den ersten und den letzten Satz der Einleitung. Der letzte Satz ist der Thesensatz; er sagt Ihnen, woran der Artikel handelt.

2 Danach lesen Sie den ersten Satz jedes Abschnitts. Er gibt Auskunft über den Inhalt des Abschnitts. Denken Sie beim späteren Bearbeiten der Aufgaben an diese Sätze; sie helfen Ihnen, den Abschnitt für die jeweils gefragte Information zu finden.

3 Lesen Sie den letzten Abschnitt genauer; er enthält eine Zusammenfassung des Artikels.

Wichtig: Lesen Sie die Abschnitte nie Zeile für Zeile, sondern überfliegen Sie sie.

Reading passage

The fifteenth century was called the Renaissance, which is French for rebirth, and the Italian Renaissance has often been expressed as the beginning of the modern epoch and a golden age of Florentine art. Florence had already experienced a long and prosperous history by the 15th century and had established itself as a haven for the free exchange of ideas for philosophers, scholars and artists. Its most powerful and wealthy political family at the time, the Medici, spent astronomical sums of money on buildings and art for the beautification and glorification of their republic resulting in architects and artists flocking into the city. Renaissance art tended to focus on the human body with accurate proportions

and the most favored art subjects were religion, portraits and mythology. The choice of medium for Renaissance painters was oil paint on stretched canvas adding shadow and light and the use of the vanishing point became popular during this period. Two of the supreme artists of all time are Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo who arose in Florence in the days of her glory.

One of the most outstanding masters of the High Renaissance is Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) who was not only an excellent painter and sculptor, but also architect, musician, scientist, inventor, engineer and mathematician and for this reason is viewed as the “Renaissance Man.” Historians agree that it was with Leonardo and his work that the High Renaissance began. Born as an illegitimate son of a local lawyer, he took the name of the town in which he was born; Vinci.



As a youth, Leonardo was apprenticed to the famous painter and sculptor Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence and was soon admitted to the Florence Painters' Guild in 1472. He also showed interest in natural and physical sciences and his hundreds of drawings proved his unsurpassed skills in draftsmanship.

(1) During his twenty-year service to the Duke of Milan he painted the altarpiece; *Madonna of the Rocks* and the mural; *The Last Supper*. After returning to Florence he painted one of his most famous portraits *La Gioconda*, better known as the *Mona Lisa* (1503-6). (2) Besides perfecting the use of the "chiaroscuro method", which created an illusion of depth and space around the main figures in a composition, he also invented an opposite effect, the "sfumato method", blurring sharp outlines using the subtle blending of one tone into another with thin glazes giving the illusion of three-dimensionality. (3) Because his interests covered such a wide range he completed very few major projects. (4) As a scientist, Leonardo realized the importance of careful observation and documentation and made discoveries in anatomy, meteorology and geology, hydraulics and aerodynamics. It is said that he exhumed corpses to study human anatomy producing meticulous drawings of the human skeletal, muscular and internal organ systems. As an inventor and engineer he invented many clever aeronautic and war machines.

Another prominent artist was Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), who became famous as a sculptor, painter, architect, engineer and later poet in the High to Late Italian Renaissance. Born in Caprese, he moved to Florence with his family when he was still a child. He too, was considered a true Renaissance Man because of the volume of his sketches, and therefore considered the best-documented artist of the 16th century. As an apprentice to the sculptor Bertoldo di Giovanni, he found sculpting to be a true passion with the belief that every stone had a sculpture within it if all the parts that were not part of the sculpture were just chipped away. His magnificent sculptures caught the attention of the Medici family which then supported him financially. His most famous statues include *David*, and *Pietá*. Michelangelo was a devout Christian and under the patronage of Pope Julius II, was commissioned to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (1508-1512). This complex composition contained over 300 figures based on nine episodes of the Book of Genesis divided into three groups – God's creation of Earth, God's creation of Mankind depicted as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the Great Flood representing their fall from God's grace. Although he



was commissioned for many projects, many of them were never completed. His last completed project was the fresco of The Last Judgement (1534-1541) under the patronage of Pope Clementine VII. There was so much protest about the depictions of nakedness in the papal chapel which was considered sacrilegious, that it was censored despite the Pope's resistance. Ultimately, one of Michelangelo's apprentices was sent in to "touch it up." Moreover, this was not the only piece of Michelangelo's work which was censored. His architectural skills were proven when he was appointed to complete many incomplete projects which had been started by others. One of these was the Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican for which he designed the dome.

The Florentine Renaissance was **obsessed** with competition and thus the Florentine government commissioned both Leonardo and Michelangelo to produce a scene from the history of Florence to adorn the walls of the Council Room of the Town Hall. Expectations of both artists were high. Leonardo was a generation older and had already established his reputation as a great painter. Michelangelo must have been worried since he prized himself more as a sculptor and had not painted very much by that time. He had grown up hearing about Leonardo's fame and was often heard making negative remarks about his older rival. Ultimately, neither artist actually won the competition because Michelangelo never painted his and Leonardo ruined his work. Nevertheless, the Florence officials announced Michelangelo the victor which helped **launch** the younger artist on his career earning him major commissions in Rome. Leonardo, not wanting to be looked down upon by Italy's art patrons despite his more established reputation, went to France and was commissioned by the French court.

All the recognized masterpieces were created during the Renaissance and it was truly an artistic period in history. Ultimately, the artistic duel and lost battle between Leonardo and Michelangelo was a dramatic and defining point in the Renaissance. Artists after this time did not experiment with new techniques, but instead copied the techniques of these great predecessors.



Prüfungstipp:

Mit Erscheinen der Aufgabe, wird auf der anderen Bildschirmseite der Absatz eingeblendet, in dem die entsprechende Antwort zu finden ist.



Questions

1 Based on paragraph 1, which of the following is the best definition for Renaissance?

- A prosperity
- B modern epoch
- C a new beginning
- D a golden age

2 According to paragraph 2 “Renaissance Man” means:

- A Someone with innovative ideas.
- B Someone who is a great painter.
- C Someone who was born in the 15th century.
- D Someone who was highly skilled.

3 The “High Renaissance” began

- A when da Vinci was born.
- B when da Vinci started producing his masterpieces.
- C when da Vinci went to live in France.
- D when da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa.

4 In paragraph 2, the “chiaroscuro method”

- A was developed by Leonardo da Vinci.
- B used glazes to create an illusion of three-dimensionality.
- C was a technique used to create depth around an object in the painting.
- D was a method used in drawings.

5 In Paragraph 2 there are four numbered spaces. Where does the following sentence best fit? Circle the correct number below.

The veiled mistiness in the Mona Lisa is an excellent example of this method.

1 2 3 4

**6 What is the meaning of “it” in this sentence in paragraph 3?**

*There was so much protest about the depictions of nakedness in the papal chapel which was considered sacrilegious, that **it** was censored despite the Pope’s resistance.*

- A** the fresco of The Last Judgement
- B** the naked figures in the fresco of The Last Judgement
- C** the statue of David
- D** most of Michelangelo’s work

7 The word “obsessed” at the beginning of paragraph 4 means:

- A** dote on
- B** common
- C** tolerate
- D** observe

8 The word “launch” in the same paragraph means:

- A** to support
- B** to contract
- C** to hire
- D** to establish

9 What can be inferred about Michelangelo from the paragraph?

- A** He was more popular than Leonardo.
- B** He was more creative than Leonardo.
- C** He was more experimental than Leonardo.
- D** He was wealthier than Leonardo.

10 How can this sentence in paragraph 5 be interpreted?

The artistic duel and lost battle between Leonardo and Michelangelo was a dramatic and defining point in the Renaissance.

- A** It was the end of the High Renaissance.
- B** It was a highlight of the Renaissance.
- C** It was obvious that neither of them was as great as at first believed.
- D** After this time Leonardo retired and Michelangelo worked as an architect.

**11 Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo were similar in many ways except:**

- A they both created new methods of painting with oil paints.
- B they both lived during the Renaissance.
- C neither of them considered painting to be their best skill.
- D neither of them finished many of their projects.

12 Select the *four main ideas* (A–D) from the answer choices below (1–8) as a summary of the whole reading passage.

- A
- B
- C
- D

Answer Choices:

- 1 Leonardo da Vinci was considered to have initiated the High Renaissance period.
- 2 The Medici family had a great impact on Florence during the Renaissance.
- 3 There was a competition between Leonardo and Michelangelo.
- 4 Michelangelo's fresco of The Last Judgement was censored.
- 5 Leonardo created a new technique in painting in oil that many painters after him copied.
- 6 Many great pieces of art were created during the Renaissance.
- 7 Leonardo worked for the French court.
- 8 Clementine VII became Pope.

**Beispieltest 2**

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Reading passage

What is **Knowledge Management**? Is it getting the right information to the right people at the right time? Is it technology, or the web? Although this loose term has been around for over a decade, not many people can put their finger on its true definition. KM, as it is commonly referred to, is basically identifying, documenting and distributing organizational practices, individual knowledge

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