

## TEST

### Read the text and choose the correct variant

Genius though he was, Leonardo da Vinci didn't produce many paintings because he was a perfectionist and spent years on each one. Only seventeen of them survive, and they are all very valuable. Leonardo began painting the *Mona Lisa* in 1503 and finished it shortly before his death in 1519. Today many consider it the most famous painting in the world, and one of the most precious, but this hasn't always been the case. The *Mona Lisa* didn't become well-known until the Symbolist movement in the mid-nineteenth century, when it was viewed as the embodiment of eternal femininity. The painting's fame skyrocketed in the twentieth century, when it was stolen from the Louvre in 1911. The theft closed the museum down for a week. Pablo Picasso was one of the suspects, but it turned out the painting had been taken by a Louvre employee, Vincenzo Peruggia, who was apprehended two years later when he tried to sell it to the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

Perhaps the most important element of the painting is the gaze: it meets ours, while Mona Lisa's posture and the visual impression of distance between sitter and observer that Leonardo created give her an almost divine inaccessibility.

*Mona Lisa* is a realistic woman and an ideal at the same time, full of contradictions. Dynamism, and a sense of movement, are always hailed as hallmarks of a masterpiece, and Leonardo succeeds in capturing dynamism in motion, rather than someone holding a halt smile. Complex paintings evoke complex responses - there are no easy analyses or interpretations. The painting continuously toys with our perceptions and emotions.

Speculations about the identity of the sitter also contribute to the painting's fame, until 2005 when a library expert at the University of Heidelberg discovered a 1503 margin note written by Agostini Vespucci.

The sitter is now confirmed as Lisa del Giocondo, the wife of Francesco del Giocondo, a wealthy Florentine silk merchant. The painting was commissioned to celebrate the birth of their second child. Detailed analysis of the painting has shown that she is wearing a typical garment, worn by women while pregnant or after giving birth. Before then there had been much speculation about the woman's identity, including the suggestion that the painting was meant as an ironic self-portrait.

Above all, it is the enigmatic smile that continues to hold the public imagination in both popular culture and the art world. It is a smile that seems to disappear when you look at it directly and Leonardo painted it with this intention. Professor Margaret Livingstone at Harvard University explains that "her smile is almost entirely in low special frequencies, and so is best seen by your peripheral vision," and says that artists like Leonardo "discovered fundamental truths that scientists are only now unraveling."

- 1 Why didn't Leonardo da Vinci produce many paintings?
  - A He preferred to work slowly.
  - B He wanted his paintings to be ideal.
  - C He wanted his paintings to cost a lot.
  - D He wasn't especially interested in painting.
- 2 According to paragraph 2 the *Mona Lisa* .
  - A was stolen for Pablo Picasso
  - B became world famous overnight
  - C was bought by an Italian gallery
  - D waited for 500 years to get to fame
- 3 The painting is famous for all the reasons **EXCEPT** .
  - A it is Leonardo's last painting
  - B it is a symbol of womanliness
  - C it has caused a lot of arguments
  - D it makes a mysterious impression
- 4 According to the passage the *Mona Lisa* .
  - A is different from the rest of da Vinci's paintings
  - B was Leonardo's present to Lisa del Giocondo
  - C used to be missing for a couple of years
  - D depicts the most beautiful smile ever
- 5 Which of the following is **TRUE** of Leonardo and his paintings?
  - A He got a lot of money for his paintings.

## TEST

- B** He presented his paintings to museums.
- C** His paintings immediately became famous.
- D** His *Mona Lisa* has excited people's interest for centuries.

### Read the text and choose the correct missing sentence.

New York City is the birthplace of Broadway, which began in the early 1900s and soon became the cultural center of New York. The theatre district fascinated large groups of middle-class people in search of music, excitement, and romance. The best seats in the house cost only \$2.00. The relationship between audience and actors was lively and high-spirited. Audiences became caught up in the plays, \_\_\_\_\_.

Broadway reached its prime during the 1920s. Lawrence Langner, organizer of the Theatre Guild, helped Broadway become a performing arts center \_\_\_\_\_.

After the stock-market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression, Broadway plunged. The number of productions declined and \_\_\_\_\_. Ironically, this became a creative period. Many of Broadway theatres now included dramas of social protest, \_\_\_\_\_.

Broadway began to compare with television and movies during the 1940s. Most theatres on Broadway were turned into film houses. By this time, television was becoming a competitor. Television was providing the public with free entertainment.

Modern day Broadway is alive and well and Broadway theatre is considered the most prestigious form of professional theatre in the United States, \_\_\_\_\_. Some ticket booths sell same-day tickets for many Broadway shows at half price. This service helps sell seats that would otherwise go empty, and \_\_\_\_\_. Many theatres also offer special student rates, same-day "rush" tickets, or standing-room tickets to help ensure that their theatres are full.

- A** using the slogan "Theatre as a Weapon"
- B** makes seeing a show in New York more affordable
- C** talking to the actors, clapping and cheering
- D** giving a start to many stars
- E** put many theatre people out of work
- F** that influenced the theatre of the world
- G** getting more and more famous
- H** as well as the most well known to the general public