Match the following names to the paintings.

A) *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Vermeer

B) *American Gothic* by Wood

C) *Mona Lisa* by Da Vinci

D) *Self-Portrait with a Straw Hat* by Van Gogh



1



2



3



4

*Source: Reuters

Understanding the introduction

Read the extracts from the beginning of the script and number them in the correct order from 1 - 8. The first one is done for you.

A girl reading a letter. A piano lesson. A portrait artist at work. ____

a painting often referred to as the 'Mona Lisa of the North'. ____

Belonging to a Dutch style of idealised, sometimes overly expressive paintings known as 'Tronies', the *Girl with the Pearl Earring* has the allure and subtlety characteristic of Vermeer's work. ____

But this painting stands apart from the quiet narrative scenes that we observe from afar in many of Vermeer's paintings. ____

Is she turning towards you or away from you? No one can agree. _1_

She's the mysterious subject of Dutch master Johannes Vermeer's *Girl with the Pearl Earring*. ____

These paintings give us a sense of intimacy while retaining their distance - a drawn curtain often emphasises the separation. ____

We can witness a milkmaid serenely pouring a bowl of milk, but that milk isn't for us. We're only onlookers. ____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part A: Match the following words to their definitions.

1.	invoke (v)	a.	a change in the shape or appearance of something or the sound that it makes, so that it is unusual or different
2.	foreshortening (n)	b.	a person who supports a cause, a charity or artists, usually financially
3.	distortion (n)	c.	interesting but difficult to understand completely as it's not clear
4.	portraiture (n)	d.	something which isn't there, an illusion
5.	patron (n)	e.	the act of making something appear smaller or closer than it really is within a painting, drawing or photograph
6.	spearhead (v)	f.	the art of representing people's faces in paintings, drawings or photographs
7.	mirage (n)	g.	to give someone a particular feeling or sense of something
8.	enigmatic (adj.)	h.	to start something new and lead the way

Now watch the rest of the video (01:01 - 04:32) and decide on the best answer for the following questions.

1. What do Vermeer's paintings usually do to create their effect?
    a. They use a variety of colours and unusual shapes to create a feeling of uncertainty.
    b. They are precisely organised and use perspective to create a sense of balance.
    c. They focus on sharp details of the face to create a feeling of realism and being close to the subject.
2. What is the meaning of *chiaroscuro*?
    a. a simple portrait of a woman who is usually beautiful
    b. a painting which uses colour in an unusually dramatic manner
    c. a painting which uses light and darkness to create a 3D effect
3. According to the video, what is it about the painting which makes it fascinating?
    a. The impression she gives that she is just about to speak together with the way she is looking at us.
    b. The soft tones of the skin make her seem life-like, as though we can touch her.
    c. There is a familiarity about her face as if we know her from a dream.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. What political events had an effect on Dutch painting in the 17th century?

   a. The rejection of Spanish rule and the religious order that came with it.
   b. The end of the Netherlands being governed by a royal family and the beginnings of democracy.
   c. The Catholic church having increased power within Dutch society.

5. What did the new patrons of the arts want to see in paintings?

   a. romanticised versions of the Dutch countryside which they could have with them on their journeys abroad
   b. attractive women painted in a life-like manner for them to place in their bedrooms
   c. everyday scenes from middle-class houses with common objects

6. What does the pearl in the earring tell us?

   a. Vermeer has the ability to create an impression of something which doesn't exist.
   b. The size of the pearl makes it clear that the girl came from a very wealthy family.
   c. The pearl is clearly a fake, which makes us question the girl and her family background.

7. In which city is *Girl with the Pearl Earring* on display?

   a. Paris
   b. The Hague
   c. Amsterdam

Discussing vocabulary

Look at the following extracts from the script and discuss the meaning of the word in bold. Write down their meanings.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

With the **chequered** floor in many of his works...

1. _____

Vermeer would even hide the leg of an easel for the sake of **composition.**

2. _____

Her eye contact and slightly **parted** lips...

3. _____

Cities like Delft were **unsupervised** by kings or bishops...

4. _____

It created a **merchant** class...

5. _____

... these merchants preferred**middle-class** subjects ...

6. _____

Upon close **inspection**, we are reminded...

7. _____

...her presence is simultaneously **penetrating** and subtle.

8. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS