Progress Test 5

Units 9 & 10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mark: _____/ 80 marks

Reading

A Read the article about art theft.

The Business of Stealing Art

Art is big business and where there's money to be made, there's crime. There are currently more than 30,000 works of art listed on the international Art Loss Register, and the FBI estimates the market for stolen art to exceed 4.7 billion euros a year.

Recent thefts have shown how easy it can be to take a painting. In October 2012, thieves broke into a Dutch art gallery with state-of-the-art security and stole seven works worth hundreds of millions of euros. In May 2010, a lone thief stole five paintings estimated to be worth 100 million euros in an overnight heist at a Paris museum. In February 2007, two Picasso paintings, worth nearly 50 million euros, and a drawing were stolen from the Paris home of the artist's granddaughter in an overnight robbery. Fortunately, the police recovered the art when the thieves tried to sell it.

While it may be relatively easy to steal art, famous works are notoriously difficult to sell. Stolen paintings that are extremely valuable on the open market can never end up in that market, thus making them both priceless and worthless at the same time. So why steal art in the first place? Thieves know that an art heist can be carried out at low risk of death or injury. Unlike a bank, with its myriad of security measures, museums, galleries and private residences tend to be soft targets. The art is there for the taking.

Once in possession of the art, thieves can sell works to an unscrupulous dealer or collector. While it is not the most common way to offload a well-known work, there are always people willing to buy a stolen masterpiece. However, the thieves know that they will be selling the work for less than 10 percent of market value. When one considers the price of art these days, that is still a respectable sum. The Paris heist, for example, could have netted the thief a cool ten million euros.

If the work is very recognisable, it will never end up on the open market selling for what it is worth. But if the world has given up looking for a lesser-known artefact, a type of art-laundering can take place. The first dealer might sell it quietly for a low price, getting a quick sale to avoid attention. If the painting then changes hands a few times in non-public deals, it can eventually end up at public auction with no red flags going up, since the owner listing it is, in fact, the legitimate owner. If the auction house does not check up on the painting's provenance, it can slip through the cracks.

If the thief does not wish to risk a sale, the work can be held for ransom or returned for the reward money. For a priceless work of art, museums and their insurance companies make it their mission to recover the piece whatever the cost, even if it culminates in the robbers going free. When the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in Boston was robbed in a $250 million heist, it offered five million dollars for information leading to the paintings' whereabouts. For the insurance company, it can get the art back at a fraction of the original price, which is better than paying the owner the insured value of a work.

Some works have a far worse plight - they are destroyed or discarded. A 1911 painting by Picasso, *The Pigeon with Green Peas*, was one of the paintings stolen in the 2010 Paris heist. The painting has been lost forever, as the thief threw the fragile painting in a rubbish container shortly after the theft. Unfortunately, the container was emptied before the painting's location was discovered.

Finally, what of the identity of the thieves? Well, romantic Hollywood notions aside, there are no gentleman thieves or cunning cat burglars. The business is now dominated by organised criminal gangs. After drugs and weapons, art theft is the third most lucrative criminal enterprise.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

B **Complete the *Exam Task*.**

Exam Task

You are going to read an article about art theft. For questions **1** – **5**, choose the answer (**a, b, c** or **d**) which you think fits best according to the text.

1 Stolen masterpieces are difficult to sell because
   a thieves expect to be paid market value.
   b they cannot be sold publicly.
   c thieves prefer to wait before finding a buyer.
   d dealers only buy legitimate art.

2 Art theft is made easier by the fact that
   a there are no museums with hi-tech security.
   b no one has ever been killed during a heist.
   c the places that house art are often not secure.
   d thieves are very concerned about their safety.

3 Once a work has been stolen,
   a it can never regain its pre-theft value.
   b it is better for the thief if it stays hidden for years.
   c it can re-enter the open market immediately after being sold.
   d thieves can sell it at a price that greatly benefits the buyer.

4 Stolen works of art that are not well known
   a tend not to be checked by auction houses.
   b lose value each time they are bought and sold.
   c never raise suspicion when they are sold.
   d are more likely to become legitimate than stolen masterpieces.

5 The author explains that art theft
   a is a romantic pursuit for some people.
   b has become a highly profitable business.
   c helps to fund other criminal activities.
   d is no longer a popular topic for films.

(___/ 10 marks)

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Vocabulary and Use your English

A Complete the sentences with one word in each gap.

1 The band members are exhausted as they have been_____tour for a year.
2 David sold his music shop, so it's_____new management now.
3 I've been trying to learn this poem_____heart, but it's impossible.
4 The priceless works_____display in this museum were taken from other countries.
5 Some artists prefer watercolours, but I like painting_____oils.
6 Many well-known musicians can play music_____ear.
7 It was wonderful to hear the school choir singing_____harmony.
8 The musician is_____contract to produce three albums for the label.

(___/ 8 marks)

B Circle the correct words.

1 When the painting had dried, the artist framed the canvas / easel.
2 Why don't you go for a walk? You are far too sedentary / solitary.
3 Martha is very reasonable / sociable and has a huge circle of friends.
4 Multi-taskers can balance / juggle a number of tasks at the same time.
5 She completed her new look with lipstick in a bright shade / stroke of red.
6 The wealthy family commissioned Andy Warhol to paint their illustrations / portraits.
7 I'm afraid it's getting late and we really have to beat / hit the road.
8 Joe was with a band before trying his luck as a lone / solo artist.

(___/ 8 marks)

C Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words.

1 Cubism was an avant-garde art_____pioneered by Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso. **MOVE**
2 She was a well-respected_____singer before she was offered a contract with a record label. **BACK**
3 When the lead_____became ill, the concert had to be cancelled. **VOCAL**
4 I don't mind living in a(n)_____town as long as I can visit the city regularly. **PROVINCE**
5 No, that's not an original Matisse, but it's a good_____. **PRODUCE**
6 There was a lot of disagreement about the_____design for the new museum. **CONTROVERSY**
7 He got his first taste of success when he was the_____act for The Marones. **OPEN**
8 This place is out in the country and we don't have much_____with city people. **INTERACT**

(___/ 8 marks)

D Complete the sentences with the correct form of these words.

bounce come do get pull wear

1 If you cut back on entertainment and eating out, you will be able to_____by on your reduced salary.
2 Commuting for two hours every day really_____me down.
3 Although we thought we were well prepared, we_____up against an unexpected problem.
4 Today's teenagers are addicted to their gadgets and they can't_____without them.
5 The townsfolk_____together after the flood and helped those who had been hit hardest.
6 Losing his job was just a temporary setback for Gordon; he soon_____back better than ever.

(___/ 6 marks)

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Grammar

A Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 Some people think film actors are lesser talented than stage actors. _____
2 Katy Perry is so not interesting as Lady Gaga is. _____
3 Parents hope to give their children as a happy life as possible. _____
4 I'm definitely not as good artist as Monet! _____
5 In his lifetime, Vincent van Gogh was not so a successful artist as Picasso. _____
6 I haven't got as much money has Justin Bieber, but I'm a better singer! _____
7 Our national art gallery hasn't got as much paintings as the Louvre. _____
8 I'm not sure, but I think as a few as 20 people went to the performance. _____

(___/ 8 marks)

B Complete each sentence with the correct comparative form of the word given.

1 Becoming famous_____it used to be; these days, it doesn't take much at all to be well known. (difficult)
2 What's wrong with Lisa? The longer she works here, the_____she seems to be. (happy)
3 It's really_____CD as we thought it would be. In fact, it's quite good! (bad)
4 Front row seats are a great deal_____the ones at the back of the theatre. (expensive)
5 Marisa sang_____of all the children in the choir, just like an angel! (sweet)
6 I don't think Max will ever be_____to have his own exhibition. (good)

(___/ 6 marks)

C Rewrite the sentences using the passive.

1 Henry got the sack because he was rude and lazy. _____
2 They are preparing the stage as we speak. _____
3 Sandra demanded that they tell her the truth. _____
4 You should mix the paints on the palette. _____
5 The singer disliked it when they asked him so many questions. _____
6 You had better tune the guitars properly. _____

(___/ 6 marks)

D Complete the *Exam Task.*

Exam Task

For questions **1 – 5,** complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given**. You must use between **three** and **six** words, including the word given.

1 Artists came to this shop because they used to frame paintings here.
HAVE
Artists came to this shop because they used to_____here.

2 After the fire, Sam needed someone to check the equipment for damage.
CHECKED
After the fire, Sam_____for damage.

3 These two songs sound very similar to me.
MORE
These two songs sound_____to me.

4 Many people believe that the young musician is a child prodigy.
BE
The young musician_____a child prodigy.

5 It looks like an art thief stole the masterpiece.
APPEARS
An art thief_____the masterpiece.

(_____/ 10 marks)

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening

D **Complete the *Exam Task*.**

Exam Task

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about health and medicine.
Complete both tasks as you listen.

Task 1

For questions 1 – 5, choose from the list (A – H) the person who is speaking.

1 Speaker 1 ☐
2 Speaker 2 ☐
3 Speaker 3 ☐
4 Speaker 4 ☐
5 Speaker 5 ☐

A a pharmacist
B a nurse
C a personal trainer
D a stay-at-home mum
E a doctor
F a psychologist
G a cosmetic surgeon
H a working parent

(___/ 5 marks)

Task 2

For questions 6 – 10, choose from the list (A – H) what each speaker is expressing.

6 Speaker 1 ☐
7 Speaker 2 ☐
8 Speaker 3 ☐
9 Speaker 4 ☐
10 Speaker 5 ☐

A indifference to a health problem
B annoyance at a common practice
C a reluctance to get fit
D a commitment to stay healthy
E concern about a health risk
F inability to help the very sick
G fear of seeking medical advice
H advice for a better quality of life

(___/ 5 marks)

Listen again.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS