

Final term exam 2024 - Reading comprehension - 6th Adolescents

Banksy

In 2010, *Time* magazine published a list of the 100 most important people in the world. Among those you might expect to see, like Steve Jobs and Barack Obama, there was also a very unlikely candidate. His name was Banksy and he was street artist from Bristol, a city in the west of England, (1) _____.

- A Having gone to school in Bristol and being of a similar age, I've always been interested in Banksy's story. While I was going to school and preparing to go to university, he was out spraying graffiti on the city's walls and trains. Afraid of being caught by the police, he realised that he had to work out a faster way of painting his murals. The idea he had was to prepare stencils, which (2) _____. He would cut out the stencils and simply spray paint over the top of them, leaving the design on the wall.
- B Banksy's new approach to graffiti meant that he could produce much more original street art than had been seen before. His pieces were usually simple but they could have a very powerful effect. Although his stencils frequently featured rats and monkeys, there was often a political or philosophical message in his work, which made it unique. Later on, his work started to include images of cultural icons, like Ronald MacDonald and Mickey Mouse, (3) _____.
- C The story of Banksy is a mysterious one and for many years his identity was unknown. However, it appears that he moved to London in the late 1990s, which was when his career really took off. Fans were delighted by (4) _____. Apart from his street art, Banksy started to produce some unusual installations, such as his famous red telephone box. It looked like someone had broken it in half, pushed it over and left it in a London street. Some people thought it was a statement about the way the world had changed; traditional red telephone boxes being replaced by mobile phones and the internet.
- D Banksy started to attract the attention of art collectors and his paintings sold for thousands in auctions. Suddenly, Banksy was a household name and he was being talked about in the newspapers and on the TV. For some people, he was an artistic genius who was responsible for a whole new style of art. For others, he was just a graffiti artist, (5) _____. Nevertheless, everyone seemed to be aware of the value of his pieces and they were soon out hunting for Banksy's murals. It's been said that some people made a fortune from selling pieces of walls with his paintings on them.
- E For me, the highlight of Banksy's career was when he returned to the west of England and put on a show in my home town of Weston-super-Mare. Named 'Dismaland', it was set in an old open-air swimming pool. The show featured a series of installations by Banksy and other well-known artists and it was designed to feel like a theme park. However, thanks to Banksy's sense of humour, nothing was quite what it seemed.

1. Read the article. In which section is the following mentioned? (10 points)

- 1 Banksy discovers a new way of producing street art. ☐
- 2 The artist catches the eye of art investors and the value of his work increases. ☐
- 3 Banksy returns to the area where he had grown up for an unusual exhibition. ☐
- 4 The writer explains that he has something in common with Banksy. ☐
- 5 Banksy becomes more successful after relocating to a different city. ☐

2. Read the article. Choose which sentence ending (A-F) fits each gap (1-5). There are two extra sentence endings you do not need. (10 points)

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

A are designs that are sketched onto cards, a technique which is often used for painting signs.

B whose work was little more than vandalism.

C his unique style and he soon became well known in the alternative London art scene.

D where he had made a name for himself with his innovative street art.

E although he had not once believed that he would be caught.

F but they would be portrayed in unusual or ironic situations.

G despite having spent many years working as a bus driver in London.