Part 3 Longer Text

SPM Paper 1: Part 3 (Q19-Q26)

You are going to read an article. For **questions 19 to 26**, *choose the correct answer (***A**, **B**, **C**, *or* **D***) and mark the correct letter* **A**, **B**, **C**, *or* **D** *on your answer sheet.*

The Story of Banksy

If a person likes street art, it is quite impossible to not have heard the name of Banksy. The United Kingdom-based street artist is arguably one of the most controversial street artists in the world thanks to his politically and philosophically charged satirical street art. Banksy is known as the graffiti master, painter, activist, filmmaker, and all-purpose provocateur was named the best British artist of 2007 and selected by Time magazine for its 100 most influential people in the world in 2010.

Banksy's works have appeared in the United States of America, Australia, England, Canada, France, Israel, Jamaica, and even Palestine which makes him one of the most renowned international artists and pranksters today. His style of art can be identified by the combination of his signature stencil aesthetic and spray paints with the underlying political messages. His work often includes controversial and powerful images which not only can be found in the streets but also throughout the internet. His artworks have transcended from the streets to the common people's computer and phone's wallpaper.

Banksy's identity is a mystery. He has been involved with the graffiti scene for over 20 years, yet he remains anonymous. Banksy could be an individual or an organization who secretly created the impressive murals on the walls while shining the light on the dark side of the world. Despite this, there are widely accepted facts about Banksy's identity. Popular theories say that he was born in or around 1974 in Bristol, UK. It is often suggested that the true identity of Banksy is Robert Banks and Robin Gunningham, artists born in Bristol in 1973. It is also believed that Banksy was a goalkeeper for the Easton Cowboys football club during the 1990s and early 2000s. It is also rumoured that Banksy is Robert del Naja, a singer from the music group "Massive Attack". However, all of these are just theories and no one really knows who he is.

The mystery of Banksy's identity allows people to focus on his artwork rather than on him. It also allows him to create artwork anywhere, whether it is the street or public places, he would convey his message through the artwork. His notable street arts include 'Girl with Balloon', 'Kissing Coppers' and 'Slave Labour'. However, Banksy's talents are not strictly limited to street

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art. Banksy attempted to sell a total of 20 paintings for only $60 each. He got an American to sell his paintings on his behalf at Central Park. He managed to sell only a few paintings unknowing of their worth.

There are many of Banksy's followers who are willing to pay a big price for his work. But Banksy is reluctant to sell his paintings in private art galleries. There are auctions for Banksy's artwork held without his consent. 'Devolved Parliament' was auctioned at £9.9 million in London. Some people would remove the paintings from the walls and auctioned them. It started when his 2004 graffiti painted in Brighton, 'Kissing Coppers', was auctioned in the USA in 2014 at $575,000. His 'Slave Labour' painting disappeared from a public wall in London and was sold in the USA for around $500,000 to $700,000. But the painting was returned to the UK when the residents of the area claimed it belonged to them and it was sold again for $1.1 million.

Banksy did not get any of the money for his paintings. He became embarrassed seeing that his artworks were being sold at auctions. To show his disapproval, he created a scene that horrified many at an auction. At the 2018 Sotheby's auction in London, his most famous sketch 'Girl with Balloon' was sold for £860,000. Moments after it was sold, the painting was destroyed publicly by a shredder that was installed inside the frame of the painting. Banksy quoted Picasso, "The urge to destroy is also a creative urge." The artwork received a new title by the Sotheby which is 'Love is in the Bin'. The buyer still went ahead with the purchase.

Nonetheless, Banksy still needs to earn an income. Through Pest Control, a handling service on behalf of the artist, he sells his new works. When he makes a large sale, he would donate the remaining funds to charities and people in need.

(Adapted from https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-story-behind-banksy-4310304/ & https://creativeyatra.com/culture/banksy-unravelling-the-story-of-the-mystery-man/)

19 In paragraph 1, why is Banksy the most controversial street artist in the world?

A Because his artworks are graffiti which is a criminal act in the UK.
B Because he is a provocateur that often disturbs others with his artworks.
C Because his artworks are often satirical combined with political and philosophical messages.
D Because he has been named as the most influential people in the world by the Times magazine.

20 In paragraph 2, how does Banksy usually create his artworks?

A Spraying paint on the wall.
B Using his signature stencil method.
C Created by using computer software.
D With stencil method and spray paints.

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21 From paragraph 3, which of these is NOT the accepted theories on Banksy's identity?
- **A** A singer from a music group.
- **B** An artist named Robin Gunningham.
- **C** An artist who was born in Bristol in 1973
- **D** A football player for Easton Cowboys football club.

22 In paragraph 4, what happened when Banksy tried to sell his paintings in Central Park?
- **A** An American bought his painting.
- **B** Not many people bought his paintings.
- **C** His paintings were sold out within hours.
- **D** People immediately recognised Banksy's artwork.

23 In paragraph 5, how do people sell Banksy's street art?
- **A** Banksy would give his street art to private art galleries.
- **B** They would make a wall disappear to sell the painting.
- **C** They would sell the pictures of the art in galleries.
- **D** They would strip off the paintings from the walls and auction them.

24 In paragraph 6, why did Banksy destroy his painting after it was sold?
- **A** To prank the buyer and the art gallery.
- **B** To show his creativity in creating artwork.
- **C** To show his protest and objection to selling his artworks.
- **D** Because he did not get any money from the selling of his previous artworks.

25 Why did Sotheby change the name of the artwork from 'Girl with Balloon' to 'Love is in the Bin'?
- **A** Because they want to teach Banksy a lesson for destroying the artwork.
- **B** Because the artwork was destroyed and no longer holds value.
- **C** Because Banksy retaliated against the Sotheby.
- **D** Because nobody would buy destroyed art.

26 Which of these statements are NOT true about Banksy's artwork?
- **A** They can fetch a very high price and very valuable.
- **B** Their messages let people know the dark side of the world.
- **C** They are often painted on a large canvas and sold at auctions.
- **D** People made them as their wallpapers on the phone and computers.

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