



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

**Admission**  
**Grade 9**

**Task 1. Read the text and answer the questions (each=1)**

*The History of Graffiti*

The first drawings on walls appeared in caves thousands of years ago. Later the Ancient Romans and Greeks wrote their names and protest poems on buildings. Modern graffiti seems to have appeared in Philadelphia in the early 1960s, and by the late sixties it had reached New York. The new art form really took off in the 1970s, when people began writing their names, or 'tags', on buildings all over the city. In the mid-seventies it was sometimes hard to see out of a subway car window, because the trains were completely covered in spray paintings known as 'masterpieces'.

In the early days, the 'taggers' were part of street gangs who were concerned with marking their territory. They worked in groups called 'crews', and called what they did 'writing' – the term 'graffiti' was first used by *The New York Times* and the novelist Norman Mailer. Art galleries in New York began buying graffiti in the early seventies. But at the same time that it began to be regarded as an art form, John Lindsay, the then mayor of New York, declared the first war on graffiti. By the 1980s it became much harder to write on subway trains without being caught, and instead many of the more established graffiti artists began using roofs of buildings or canvases.

The debate over whether graffiti is art or vandalism is still going on. Peter Vallone, a New York city councilor, thinks that graffiti done with permission can be art, but if it is on someone else's property, it becomes a crime. 'I have a message for the graffiti vandals out there,' he said recently. 'Your freedom of expression ends where my property begins.' On the other hand, Felix, a member of the Berlin-based group Reclaim Your City, says that artists are reclaiming cities for the public from advertisers, and that graffiti represents freedom and makes cities more vibrant.

For decades graffiti has been a springboard to international fame for a few. Jean-Michel Basquiat began spraying on the street in the 1970s before becoming a respected artist in the '80s. The Frenchman Blek le Rat and the British artist Banksy have achieved international fame by producing complex works with stencils, often making political or humorous points. Works by Banksy have been sold for over £100,000. Graffiti is now sometimes big business.

1. Why was the seventies an important decade in the history of graffiti?
  - A) That was when modern graffiti first appeared.
  - B) That was when modern graffiti first became really popular.



- C) That was when graffiti first reached New York.
2. What is a 'masterpiece' in graffiti?  
A) A really high-quality piece of graffiti.  
B) A work of graffiti showing the artist's name.  
C) A full piece of graffiti, like those seen on subway trains.
3. Who coined the phrase 'graffiti'?  
A) New York gangs who had a lot of Italian immigrant members.  
B) A newspaper and an author.  
C) The man who was the mayor of New York in the late seventies.
4. What does New York city councilor Peter Vallone say about graffiti?  
A) Graffiti can be good for cities as long as it is tasteful and conveys positive messages.  
B) Graffiti can be beautiful if it is done by a skilled artist.  
C) Graffiti is a crime if the artist does not have permission.
5. What is the author's final point?  
A) Graffiti has now become mainstream and can make artists a lot of money.  
B) Graffiti is not a good way to become a respected artist.  
C) Some of the most popular graffiti artists end up being exploited by the art world.

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**Task 2. Complete the sentences with the right tense. (each=1)**

1. Fifty years ago, people \_\_\_\_\_(not spend) as much on entertainment as they do today.
2. I was reading a book while you \_\_\_\_\_ (to do) the washing.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (to work) in the museum until the end of the month.
4. It is the first time we \_\_\_\_\_ (to watch) a video in class.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (to go) to the theatre four times last month.
6. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ (to borrow) my CDs without asking!
7. Gordon? I think \_\_\_\_\_ (to write) a letter at the moment.
8. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_(to do) grammar exercises for over an hour.
9. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not check) the answers yet.
10. He \_\_\_\_\_ (to learn) Chinese since 2004.



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**Task 3. Complete using the correct words. (each=1)**

*to achieve      to fail      to pass      course      degree*

1. We had our English exam this morning. I hope I have \_\_\_\_\_!
2. My sister left Warwick University after she got her \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Pete couldn't answer any questions, so he thinks he has \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I am thinking of going on a computer\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Our teacher said that we have all \_\_\_\_\_ a lot this year.

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**Task 4. Complete using the right preposition. (each=0.5)**

1. We first visited China \_\_\_\_ 2006.  
a) on    b)in    c)at
2. Where do you usually go \_\_\_\_ Christmas Day?  
a) on    b) for    c) at
3. Let's go and see grandma \_\_\_\_ Easter.  
a) on    b) in    c) at
4. What do you want to do in the morning?  
a) in    b) at    c) for
5. There is a party at Emily's \_\_\_\_ Saturday.  
a) at    b) in    c) on
6. School starts again \_\_\_\_\_ September.  
a) in    b) on    c)at
7. Let's meet \_\_\_\_\_ 5o'clock, shall we?  
a) at    b) in    c)for
8. My birthday is\_\_\_\_ the second of July.  
a) on    b)at    c)in

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Total\_\_\_/24