



# Art History

## English Lessons



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## **“What is Art for?”-Video activity for advanced levels**



### **Before watching**

**Before you watch the video try to answer the question of the title. What is art for? What is its role in our lives and our modern world in your opinion?**



### **Now watch the video and answer the questions below:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn0bDD4gXrE>**

- 1. Why do some people get afraid to ask directly what art is for?**
- 2. What is the significance of prettiness in popular works of art?**
- 3. How does art reassure us of the normality of pain?**
- 4. Why are we drawn to certain works of art that compensate for our lacks?**
- 5. How can art help a society rebalance itself?**
- 6. In what way can art be seen as a form of propaganda**
- 7. Has the video affected your opinion on how you see the role of art in our lives?  
Justify your opinion.**



### Before watching

**Before you watch the video try to answer the question of the title. What is art for? What is its role in our lives and our modern world in your opinion?**

### Watch the video and answer:

#### **1. Why do some people get afraid to ask directly what art is for?**

Some people get afraid to ask directly what art is for because they think everyone else already knows the answer, making it too obvious or complicated.

#### **2. What is the significance of prettiness in popular works of art?**

Prettiness in popular works of art serves as an emblem of hope, preserving a sense of optimism and beauty for when we need it.

#### **3. How does art reassure us of the normality of pain?**

Art reassures us of the normality of pain by making it publicly visible and available, acknowledging that suffering is part of the human condition.

#### **4. Why are we drawn to certain works of art that compensate for our lacks?**

We are drawn to art that compensates for our lacks by containing qualities we need more of in our lives, such as serenity, tenderness, or drama.

#### **5. How can art help a society rebalance itself?**

Art can help a society rebalance itself by reflecting the qualities that are lacking or needed at a particular time, like France turning to *de vivre* in the late 18th century

#### **6. In what way can art be seen as a form of propaganda?**

Art can be seen as a form of propaganda that promotes important emotions and attitudes, motivating and energizing individuals for causes like embracing the simple life or broadening horizons.

#### **7. Has the video affected your opinion on how you see the role of art in our lives?**





For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





## **Video**

The video was made by the organisation “The School of Life”

You can visit their site here:

<https://www.theschooloflife.com/>

or subscribe to their Youtube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@theschooloflifetv>



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**Major thanks to:** Canva, Wikipedia and Wikiart, Pixabay, Pexels, Google Fonts and all the museums that host the works of art.

For any questions you may have you can message me at [info@ruthlessteacher.com](mailto:info@ruthlessteacher.com)

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