

C/ PART GENERAL: LENGUA ESTRANGERA

MODIGLIANI OR ONE OF THE GREAT 20TH CENTURY ARTISTS

1

Amedeo Modigliani was the bohemian artist *par excellence* - his posthumous legend is almost as famous as Van Gogh's. In stylistic terms he was an oddity: Contemporary with the Cubists, but not part of their movement, he forms a bridge between the generation of Toulouse-Lautrec and the Art Deco painters of the 1920s.

2

He was born in Livorno in July 1884. Both sides of his family were Sephardic Jews. His mother ran an experimental school and due to her influence, the atmosphere in the house was always unconventional. In 1898 one of Amedeo's brothers was sentenced to six months imprisonment for his anarchist activities.

3

In the same year, Modigliani began formal art training under the leader of the Italian Impressionist movement but Modigliani's favourite poet was Lautréamont, who later had immense significance for the Surrealists.

4

In the winter of 1906 he decided to go to Paris though he did not go to live in Montmartre, which was at that time the focal point of the avant-garde. Due to French anti-Semitism, he discovered a much stronger sense of Jewish identity and his friends in the Paris art world were

mainly Jewish, like the poet Max Jacob - his one real link with the circle around Picasso. He rapidly gained a reputation for his excesses with drink and drugs: in 1909 he retired for a while, sick and exhausted.

5

When he returned, settling in Montparnasse, he decided to change direction and became a sculptor. He was clearly influenced by the art from Africa and Oceania and though he was closer to finding his artistic direction, he was still miserably poor - his sculpture was made from stone stolen from building sites. However, it was the sudden start of the First World War that stopped him from carving, together with the fact that he was not strong enough any more to shape blocks of stone. He went back to painting. He became a specialist in portraits, which showed the influence of his period as a sculptor. Thanks to his Polish dealer, Zborowski, his paintings started to fetch respectable prices. In 1919 a show was arranged at the Mansard Gallery in London. It was a success and it was one of Modigliani's works which was sold for the highest price.

6

Modigliani's health was steadily deteriorating and his alcoholic collapses were more frequent. One afternoon, his neighbour found him delirious with empty bottles by his bed. The doctors could do nothing; he died of tubercular meningitis on 24 January 1920.

A. Choose the correct statement (a, b, or c) basing your answers on the text above.

Total score : 2.5 0.5 points per correct answer

1.

- a. Modigliani was in between two different artistic movements
- b. Modigliani was one of the founders of Art Deco
- c. Modigliani was two generations ahead of the Cubists

2.

- a. Modigliani was the leader of the Impressionist movement
- b. Modigliani never had any contact with the Impressionist movement
- c. Modigliani learnt from artists who were prominent figures of the Impressionist movement.

3.

- a. Modigliani was always very conscious of his religious background
- b. Modigliani became closer to his religious background as an adult
- c. Modigliani was Jewish but profoundly anti – Semitic

4.

- a. Modigliani used African stones for his sculptures
- b. Modigliani used illegal methods to find stones
- c. Modigliani bought stones from a building in Montparnasse

5.

- a. Modigliani never succeeded professionally in his life time
- b. Modigliani was immensely successful throughout his career
- c. Modigliani obtained some substantial success at some point in his career.

B. Find the word or phrase corresponding to the definitions in the indicated paragraphs. The words in brackets (Adjective/Noun)... refer to the type /category of word you need.

Total score : 2.5 0.5 points per correct answer.

Paragraph 1

1. Happening after someone has died **(Adjective)**

Paragraph 2

2. Was given a punishment **(Verb)**

Paragraph 5 (Noun)

3. Piece of ground where a house, block of flats... is under construction

Paragraph 5

4. Painting, photograph or drawing of a real person **(Noun)**

Paragraph 6

5. In an excited dream state caused by illness **(Adjective)**

C. Complete the gaps in the text below with one of the 3 answers provided. Only one is correct.

Total score : 2.5 0.5 points per correct answer

MANUFACTURING A COMPACT DISC

In a studio the music is recorded on the magnetic band of a tape. Then, this tape will be 1._____ to a factory where discs are manufactured.

In the studio the microphone captures the vibrations coming 2._____the voice and the instruments in the form of electric signs. These arrive at a magnetic band and attract tiny particles. In 3._____ factory, a laser ray reads the information on the band and sends it on a big glass disc. This disc is soaked into a product 4._____ eats into the particles that have been touched by the laser. A compact disc 5._____ last almost forever on condition the varnish protecting all the information it contains is never damaged.

1. A. send B. sent C. sending
2. A. from B. back C. to
3. A. some B. the C. many
4. A. that B. who C. whose
5. A. must B. has C. can

D. Answer ONE of the two options below in between 50 and 80 words.

Total score : 2.5 (25 % of the total mark)

1. Write about the life of a person you admire for some reason. Mention the most important details about his/her biography and explain why you like him/her.
2. Give instructions on how to make a simple salad. Use the appropriate range of vocabulary and the imperative form of the verbs.