

Devoir surveillé – Arts et débats de société

Axe culturel 3 — Art et pouvoir : comment les œuvres artistiques interrogent et influencent les débats de société (programme LVA 1ère)

Durée : 120 min – Sans document – Sur 20 points · Anglais (LVA) 1^{re}

Nom : _____ Date : _____ Note : _____ / 20

Les réponses doivent être rédigées et justifiées. Soigne l'orthographe et la présentation.

Exercice 1 – Compréhension écrite — The mural on Dock Street (4 pts)

Read the text carefully, then answer the four questions in English, in full sentences. When the mural first appeared on the side of the old grain warehouse on Dock Street, nobody knew who had painted it. It showed three dockers standing in front of a closed gate, their tools on the ground, and above them a single line of white letters: "WE BUILT THIS TOWN". Within a week, photographs of the wall had travelled across the country, and the town council found itself at the centre of a debate it had never asked for. The council was divided. Some members argued that the mural was simply vandalism on private property and should be painted over at once. Others pointed out that the warehouse had stood empty for eleven years and that the painting had brought more visitors to Dock Street in seven days than the tourist office had managed in a decade. A local historian wrote to the newspaper to remind readers that four hundred dockers had lost their jobs when the port closed in 1984, and that no memorial had ever been built for them. The owner of the warehouse, a property company based two hundred miles away, eventually made the decision itself. It announced that the wall would be preserved, protected behind a sheet of glass, and that the building would reopen as a shopping arcade. Some residents celebrated. Others noted, quietly, that a painting about men who had lost their work was now an advertisement for a shopping centre.

- a) a) Who painted the mural, and where exactly does it appear? Quote the text.
- b) b) Explain in your own words why the town council was divided.
- c) c) Why does the historian mention the year 1984? What does this add to the debate?
- d) d) Explain the irony pointed out by some residents in the last sentence.

Exercice 2 – Langue — le lexique de l'art et de la censure (4 pts)

Complete each sentence with the correct English word or expression. One word per gap unless indicated.

- a) a) The novel was ____ (interdit) in several school libraries last year.
- b) b) Many artists practise ____ (l'autocensure) before a work is even finished.
- c) c) The exhibition aimed to raise ____ (la sensibilisation) about housing conditions.
- d) d) Fifty years later, the government finally decided to ____ the ban (lever l'interdiction).

Exercice 3 – Langue — les tournures d'analyse (4 pts)

Complete each analytical sentence with the missing verb, noun or preposition.

- a) a) The photograph draws attention ____ the living conditions of migrant workers.
- b) b) The film ____ light on an episode that textbooks had ignored.
- c) c) This mural ____ for the memory of the dockers.
- d) d) ____ is at stake here is the right of a community to tell its own story.

Exercice 4 – Langue — exprimer et nuancer une opinion*(4 pts)*

Rewrite or complete each sentence so that the opinion is expressed and nuanced correctly.

- a) a) Complete: "___ as I am concerned, a museum should explain a work rather than hide it."
- b) b) Complete: "___, the painting is shocking; however, hiding it would settle nothing."
- c) c) Correct the mistake: "At my opinion, street art is a real art form."
- d) d) Translate: « On ne peut nier que la polémique a fait connaître l'œuvre. »

Exercice 5 – Expression écrite — Should a controversial artwork be removed?*(4 pts)*

The town council of the text in Exercise 1 asks residents to write a short opinion letter about the future of the mural. Write your letter in English, respecting the four requirements below.

- a) a) Write 150 to 180 words in the form of a letter to the council.
- b) b) Use at least three expressions of opinion or nuance studied in the chapter (in my opinion, I would argue that, admittedly... but..., to a certain extent, however).
- c) c) Include at least two items of vocabulary from the chapter (censorship, to ban, to spark controversy, committed art, audience, to raise awareness).
- d) d) Support your position with one precise example, drawn from the text or from an English-speaking cultural reference studied in class.

Bon courage !