

Devoir surveillé – Art, engagement et contestation

Axe culturel 3 — Art et pouvoir : l'art comme arme d'engagement, de témoignage et de résistance dans le monde anglophone (programme LVA Tle)

Durée : 120 min – Sans document – Sur 20 points · Anglais (LVA) Terminale

Nom : _____ Date : _____ Note : _____ / 20

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

Exercice 1 – Reading comprehension — The Wall of Names (4 pts)

Read the text carefully, then answer the four questions in English, in full sentences. When the council of Larkhill, a former mining town in south Wales, offered the gable wall of the old library to a group of young artists, it expected flowers. What it got was a wall of names: four hundred miners who had gone down the Blackbrook pit and never come back up, painted in white on a black ground, with one empty line left at the bottom. The reaction was immediate. The local paper called the mural "a black gash on a cheerful street". Two councillors demanded that it be painted over before the summer season. Yet the families came, every evening, with chalk, and began writing on the pavement the names the artists had missed. Six months later the council voted to keep the wall and to fund a second one. The artists refused. "One wall is a memorial," their spokeswoman said. "Two is a policy." They asked instead that the empty line be left empty, and that the town record, every year, whether it still had anything to add. Today the wall stands on the bus route. Visitors photograph it; schoolchildren copy the names into their notebooks. Nobody in Larkhill calls it protest art any more. They call it the wall.

- a) a) What exactly did the artists paint on the gable wall, and what did the council expect instead? (2 sentences)
- b) b) Contrast the reaction of the local paper with the reaction of the families. Quote one element for each.
- c) c) Explain the artists' answer: "One wall is a memorial. Two is a policy." What are they refusing?
- d) d) Explain the phrase "a black gash on a cheerful street" and say what it reveals about the writer of the article.

Exercice 2 – Lexique de l'art engagé (4 pts)

Complete each sentence with the English word or phrase corresponding to the French cue in brackets.

- a) a) The photographer wanted to ____ awareness of housing conditions. (sensibiliser à)
- b) b) When artists soften their work out of fear, we call it _____. (l'autocensure)
- c) c) After forty years, the government finally ____ the ban on the novel. (a levé)
- d) d) The statue has become an example of ____ heritage in the city. (patrimoine contesté)

Exercice 3 – Analyser une œuvre (4 pts)

Rewrite each sentence using the phrase given in brackets, without changing the meaning.

- a) a) The wall seems simple, but it is not. (At first glance... on closer inspection...)
- b) b) The artist questions the official story of the strike. (to call into question)
- c) c) The quilt is a proof of thousands of lives. (to stand as a testament to)
- d) d) A child is close to us in the image; the empty street is behind. (in the foreground / in the background)

Exercice 4 – Exprimer un avis nuancé*(4 pts)*

Translate the following segments into English, using the phrases studied in the chapter.

- a) a) On pourrait soutenir que la fresque a changé le regard de la ville sur elle-même.
- b) b) Certes, le film n'est pas subtil ; et pourtant sa colère se justifie.
- c) c) Il est indéniable que ce mémorial a déplacé l'opinion publique.
- d) d) Alors que certains affirment qu'il s'agit d'histoire, d'autres soutiennent qu'il s'agit de propagande.

Exercice 5 – Written expression — Should the wall stay ?*(4 pts)*

The council of Larkhill is holding a public meeting about the wall of names. Write the speech you would give (180-220 words), following the four requirements below.

- a) a) Describe the mural in three or four sentences, using in the foreground / in the background and one verb of interpretation (to convey, to call into question, to stand as a testament to).
- b) b) Present one argument against keeping the wall, introduced by While some claim that...
- c) c) Give your own position, using It could be argued that... and one nuance (Admittedly... yet... or to some extent).
- d) d) Close with a sentence about the empty line left at the bottom: what should the town do with it, and why?

Bon courage !