
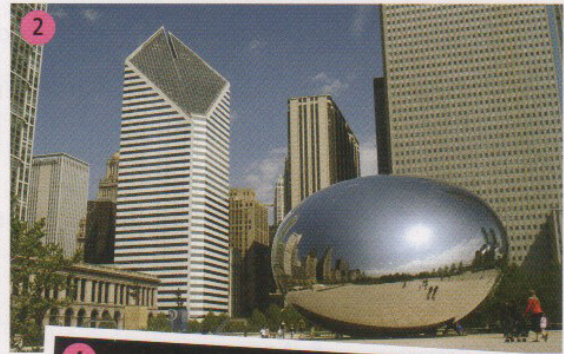


10 Is it art?

Speaking


IELTS Part 3

- 1  Work in groups. Decide what art form is represented in each photograph and share your opinions about each of them.



Don't forget!

- Develop your ideas by giving examples and reasons.
- Use abstract not personal examples.
- Focus on breathing and maintaining the rhythm of sentences.

- 2  In your groups, discuss one or more of the Part 3 questions below. Choose someone to write down the ideas as you discuss them. When you have finished, look at the notes and summarize what has been discussed.

The Arts

What are the advantages of the arts to society?


How do you think the arts should be funded – by the tax payer or by fees?


Do you think the arts have an educational role to play in society? Should young people be encouraged to be involved in the arts? Should an arts component be made compulsory for all students at university, even for scientists?

- 3 Work in groups of three. Take turns performing the following roles using the questions in exercise 2:
- the candidate
 - the examiner
 - the monitor (make notes about the candidate's performance using the checklist on page 210 and give feedback when he/she has finished speaking)

Listening

IELTS Section 2

- 1  What would you expect to see at an art exhibition?
What kind of opinions might people have about an art exhibition?
- 2 Look at questions 11–20 below and underline the words that warn you that the answer is coming soon.

 2.3 SECTION 2 Questions 11–20

Question 11

Answer the question below.

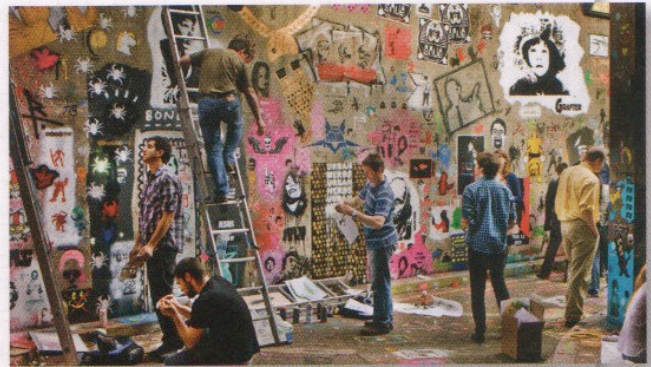
Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for your answer.

- 11 What has the opening of the new art exhibition created?
.....

Questions 12–14

Choose **THREE** letters, A–G.Which **THREE** of the following criticisms of the Street Art exhibition are mentioned?

- A misuse of public funds
- B size of the exhibition
- C high cost of entrance fee
- D inspiration for vandalism
- E overcrowding at the gallery
- F no support for local artists
- G increased hospital admissions



Questions 15–17

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

- 15 The public didn't go to the art galleries and museums, because of the
- A cost.
 - B crowds.
 - C time.
- 16 The email survey showed approximately
- A 70% backed Mrs Cook.
 - B 70% were against Mrs Cook.
 - C 70% were not sure.
- 17 According to Mrs Cook, people in the art world are concerned about the
- A timing of the introduction of support.
 - B level of financial support from the state.
 - C loss of jobs in the sector.

Questions 18–20

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- 18 The radio show will have two on the street.
- 19 The purpose of the walk-about is to public opinion.
- 20 The second reporter will be outside the in the shopping centre.

Vocabulary: Art



1 Work in pairs. For 1–10 below, write as many people you associate with each word as you can.

- 1 play _____
- 2 orchestra _____
- 3 novel _____
- 4 book _____
- 5 newspaper _____
- 6 sculpture _____
- 7 song _____
- 8 symphony _____
- 9 ballet _____
- 10 film _____

2 Work in pairs. In each bubble 1–3 below, circle the words that go together.

1

draw play

direct artist

sketch illustrate

3

sculptor musician

 soap opera

symphony compose

 conduct

2

fiction stories

 novels

composer actor

3 For texts 1–4 below, underline the correct words in *italics*.

1 I studied *drama/plays/acts* at school. We had a theatre with all the props and *scenes/scenery/backgrounds* and a really great drama teacher, who *showed/produced/composed* at least one *theatre/play/stage* or musical a year. Sometimes he also produced a dance routine. It wasn't very *highbrow/lowbrow* art, but it was very good experience for us.

2 I don't think this is graffiti but a real *working/work/bit* of art. It is obvious that the person who *drew/wrote/put up* this is a real artist and not a vandal or hooligan as some people say. *Figure/Extract/Abstract* art like this with boxes and colours can be very difficult for people to understand but *classical/established/orthodox* paintings are just as difficult. Few people, for instance, now understand the *illusions/delusions/allusions* in, say, Renaissance paintings.


3 Many people attack *today/modern/these days* art, mainly, I think, because they don't *appreciate/see/realize* it. If people look at it a little more closely, they will be less *unfavourable/critical/approving* of it.

4 Dickens wrote very long *novels/narrations/fictions* about social issues, mainly set in or around London in the mid 19th century. They were often serialized and were eagerly awaited by the reading public. His books are considered *masterstories/big pieces/masterpieces*, and the *tales/dramas/pieces* that they *say/write/tell* are as pertinent today as they were 150 years ago. For the modern world the language is a bit dense and heavy, but they were the *visual/popular/sacred* art of their day just as *soap operas/soap plays/opera plays* are today.

4 For 1–7 below, complete the gaps with a form of the words in the box below.

exhibit	sculpt	scene	criticize (x2)	vision	collect
---------	--------	-------	----------------	--------	---------

- The _____ cost a lot of money to visit and was a waste of time; it was full of avant-garde work I couldn't understand.
- The bronze _____ were displayed in the garden and the galleries.
- My _____ is purely subjective I know, but I think the paintings were not just childlike but childish.
- The new extension where the sculptures are on show is more stunning than the _____ itself.
- His works have been hailed as masterpieces by _____, but I honestly can't see anything in them.
- The _____ in the play was a work of art in itself. The artist who painted the panels must be a genius.
- I think I prefer the performing arts to the _____ arts; I just find paintings tiring to look at.

5  Work in pairs. Discuss the area of the arts you like the best: performing, visual, literature, etc.

Describe something you have seen that you would never want to see again and something you never tire of seeing or thinking about. Use as many words as you can from the exercises above.

Language focus: Defining and non-defining clauses

Defining clauses provide information which cannot be left out, as it identifies what is being referred to. They do not have commas at the beginning and end of the clause.


The water colour that she painted in her teens has just sold for a record sum.

You can leave out the relative pronoun only if it is the object of the clause and only in defining clauses.

The sculpture (that) I made at school was stolen.

Non-defining clauses provide additional information, which can be left out. They have commas at the beginning and the end.

A building nearby, which I like very much, has just been demolished and caused a huge mess.

 Read more about defining and non-defining relative clauses in the Grammar reference on page 224.

- 1 Work in pairs. For each pair of sentences 1–6 below, decide what the difference in meaning is between **a** and **b**.
- a A new play by Shakespeare, which the playwright wrote when he was young, has just been discovered.

b The play that he wrote at the age of 21 has just won a major prize.
 - a The music in the film, which is taken from Beethoven's 9th symphony, is very well known.

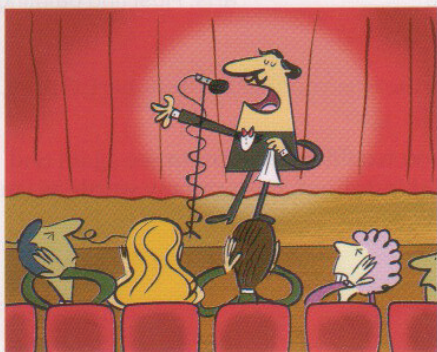
b An anthem that I heard on the car radio yesterday was very familiar.
 - a That is the director that I was talking about.

b The director, who has just left, won't be here again till the end of the week.
 - a That exhibition which you recommended was brilliant.

b The exhibition, which incidentally was very good, finishes on Friday.
 - a Was he the same architect who built the Sydney Opera House?

b Mr Renne, who was an unknown architect for years, designed the bridge.
 - a The singer who sang the anthem at the beginning of the performance was out of key.


b One singer, who sang the anthem at the beginning of the performance, was out of key.



- 2 Work in pairs. For 1–8 below, complete each gap with a suitable relative pronoun where necessary. Leave the gap blank where it is not necessary to use a relative pronoun.
- The book _____ he gave me as a present was really superb.
 - An actor, _____ name I have forgotten now, was in the shop this morning.
 - My art class, _____ started last week, has been cancelled.
 - I think literature, _____ was not my favourite subject at school, should have more time devoted to it in the school curriculum.
 - The painting _____ he bought for \$50 000 was a fake, the other one was genuine.
 - The sister _____ is the dancer got married, not the singer.
 - I see the show _____ we went to last week has had very good reviews.
 - This is the friend _____ I was talking to you about yesterday.
- 3 For 1–7 below, complete the gaps with a clause **a–g**. Add any necessary punctuation.
- My uncle's flat _____ is empty for the next two weeks, so I'm staying there.
 - The friend _____ got me into the film preview.
 - One of my sculptures _____ has just won an art prize.
 - The film _____ starts in a few minutes.
 - I like literature _____.
 - Is that the folk concert _____?
 - The culture tour _____ was dazzling.
- that you were praising last night because of the quality of the singer
 - which I made when I started the art course
 - which overlooks the opera house
 - whose father is the film director
 - which was incredibly expensive for the length of the trip
 - which has some breathtaking locations
 - that is not dumbed down or simplified in any way
- 4 Complete one or more of sentences 1–6 below so that they are true for you. Then explain your sentences to a partner, giving reasons and examples.
- I like literature (which/that) I ...
 - I don't like films (which/that) I ...
 - I'm really mad about music (which/that) I ...
 - I want to go to an exhibition (which/that) I ...
 - I dislike (operas/rock concerts) most of all, which I have never liked, ...
 - I have seen loads of films, which is a hobby of mine, ...

Writing:

IELTS Task 2

- 1  Work in groups and discuss the Task 2 question below. Decide whether you are going to write your answer using advantages, purposes or reasons. Make a list of three or four positive ideas and three or four negative ideas relating to involvement in the arts.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Being involved in the arts makes people feel better.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

- 2 The text below is part of an answer to the Task 2 question above. For 1–10, complete the gaps with a suitable word. The first letter of each word is given.

It is not possible for many of us to achieve greatness in the 1 **a** _____ like painting or literature, but it does not mean that we should not be involved in some kind of 2 **a** _____ activity, even if it only means visiting art 3 **g** _____ or attending lectures on the arts to gain more knowledge.

There are, of course, different advantages, which benefit the individual and the nation as a whole, to be derived from children and adults 4 **p** _____ in some way in the arts. 5 **T** _____ dancing, for example. Dance, which requires a lot of physical activity, is obviously very good for 6 **p** _____ health as it helps the body to fight disease and also improves 7 **c** _____, provided, that is, that one doesn't overdo it. 8 **L** _____, painting and pottery help coordination, which is a skill that is missing in a lot of education today as children focus on learning through computers.


For some, the purpose of involvement in the arts is to help them relax, even if it is only going to see an 9 **e** _____ at an art 10 **g** _____.



- 3 Find 1–5 below in the text in exercise 2.
- 1 the writer's opinion
 - 2 examples of non-defining relative clauses, if they exist
 - 3 examples of defining relative clauses, if they exist
 - 4 an example of a purpose
 - 5 an example
- 4 Complete the final paragraph of the text in exercise 2. In this part of the answer you should write about the various reasons why people get involved in artistic activities.

Reading

IELTS Reading Passage

- 1  Work in groups. Discuss statements 1 and 2 below.
- 1 'Graffiti is a legitimate art form.'
 - 2 'Street artists should be made to clean up the damage they cause rather than sending them to prison.'
- 2 Work in groups. The following words and phrases **1–10** all appear in the reading passage below. Without looking at the passage, decide if the meanings on the right are correct.
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <i>on the face of it</i> | superficially |
| 2 <i>wielding</i> | carrying |
| 3 <i>polarised</i> | driven apart |
| 4 <i>facade</i> | outside surface |
| 5 <i>crew</i> | people working on a ship |
| 6 <i>pop</i> | jump up and down |
| 7 <i>retrospective</i> | forward-looking |
| 8 <i>spawned</i> | created |
| 9 <i>upstanding</i> | not sitting |
| 10 <i>draconian</i> | severe |
- 3 Scan the reading passage and find the incorrect words from exercise 2 to check the correct meaning.

READING PASSAGE

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on the reading passage below.

Graffiti: Street art or crime



On the face of it, as a society, we seem to be a little mixed-up when it comes to 'graffiti', as you call it if you work in the local council's cleansing department, or 'street art' as you say if you're the man – and they do mainly seem to be male – wielding the spray can. But the confusion now runs deeper than

those who spray and those who remove the paint. Great British institutions have been polarised. Last week the might of English law delivered its verdict at Southwark Crown Court in London where five members of the DPM Graffiti Crew were jailed – one, Andrew Gillman, for two years – after admitting conspiracy to cause criminal damage, costing the taxpayer at least £1m.

By contrast, just down the road from the Court, the riverside facade of Tate Modern had been covered in giant murals by six urban artists with international reputations, including Blu from Bologna, Faile from New York, and Sixeart from Barcelona, in the first display of street art at a major museum.

The courtroom and the museum were so close that supporters of the men on trial popped down to the Tate to do a bit of retouching during one lunchtime break at the court. 'There is a huge irony in the juxtaposition of the two events,' said one of the artists.

The man to credit for bringing street art into established gallery spaces is Banksy. A few years ago he was sneaking his work into galleries such as the Louvre and Tate Britain. Now Tate Modern is selling his book in its gift shop. His works sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds and he was recently featured in a retrospective exhibition alongside Andy Warhol. He, more than anyone else, has legitimised the genre and spawned a new generation of young imitators – much to the displeasure of those who want to clean up behind them.

Bob has been involved in graffiti since 1982 when he was a punk. He now works, by day, for a London art gallery and describes himself as an upstanding taxpayer. 'London is to street art, at the start of the 21st century, what Paris was for Impressionism at the start of the 20th,' he says with genuine immodesty. 'And yet we hate graffiti more than anywhere else in the world. England is by far and away the most draconian for punishments for what are only economic crimes.'

A gallery in New York in the United States launches an exhibition next week based on the work of those convicted at Southwark. 'DPM – Exhibit A', at the Anonymous Gallery Project in Soho, will display large photographs of the convicts' work alongside copies of their charge sheets to ask whether the men are criminals or artists.

It is a question which prompts different answers in different parts of the world, says Cedar Lewinsohn, the curator of the exhibition at Tate Modern. 'Brazil for instance is more relaxed about it,' he says. 'In parts of Australia, they are like the UK and people really hate graffiti and tags on

vans and trains, but in Melbourne drivers compete with each other as to whose van is more decorated.'

They have similarly schizophrenic responses in other nations too. In Toronto, police have just hired a street artist to paint walls to help find the man who murdered the street artist's brother. Elsewhere in Canada, a court has ruled that, after a police crackdown on graffiti artists, a 28-year-old man is only allowed to venture into town if he is accompanied by his mother. One internet blogger wrote: 'In their twenties and still vandalising other people's property – shouldn't they have moved on to drug dealing, or perhaps become real estate agents by that age?'

Street art, you see, is a highly polarising phenomenon. On the one hand there are those like the American artist Elura Emerald, who is also involved in next week's New York exhibition, who insist that 'artists who paint on the street are merely expressing themselves, not hurting anyone' and should not be punished 'but appreciated and celebrated'. Then there are those like Judge Christopher Hardy who, in court in Southwark, described the activities of the DPM Crew as 'a wholesale self-indulgent campaign to damage property on an industrial scale'.

How is such a dichotomy to be resolved? How, The Independent asked the street artist Bob, can artistic expression be reconciled with the fear and loathing that graffiti inspires in many citizens who see it as a symbol of lawlessness and the deterioration of their neighbourhood? 'Well, not by sending them to jail,' he says.

Greenwich and Tower Hamlets councils in London agree. They commissioned members of the DPM to lead summer workshops as street art tutors for young and vulnerable people. The two councils sent references to court vouching that the DPM men were 'positive' and 'inspirational' in working with 'young people who aren't able to do reading or writing'. But it was not enough to save them from prison.

Questions 1–9

Complete the summary using the list of words, **A–Q**, below.

The debate as to whether graffiti constitutes art is **1** the establishment in Great Britain. While one group of 'graffiti artists' were being sent to prison, in an art gallery not far from the court the work of several major street artists was being **2** on the side of the gallery facing the river. The street artist Banksy is responsible for **3** street art, leading to his being **4** by a new band of imitators, to the **5** of some people. London has been described as the centre of street art in the world, but ironically at the same time the **6** there are greater. Whether graffiti artists are considered **7** to be imprisoned or not depends on which country you are in. So the question is whether street artists should be **8** as wrongdoers or **9** as artists.

A cleaned	B uniting	C criticizing
D dividing	E destroying	F punished
G exhibited	H penalties	I annoyance
J criminals	K pleasure	L promoting
M avoided	N painters	O rewards
P copied	Q appreciated	


Questions 10–13

Look at the following countries (Questions 10–13 below) and the list of statements below. Match each country with the correct statement, **A–F**.

- 10** the USA
- 11** Brazil
- 12** Australia
- 13** Canada

List of Statements

- A** vehicle adornment is a form of competition
- B** a street artist has been employed by the police
- C** it causes street disturbances
- D** imprisonment for two years is mandatory
- E** people are easygoing about street art
- F** it is exhibiting work of the artists imprisoned in the UK

 **Reacting to the text**

Do you think that graffiti is a genuine art form? Why/Why not?

Does graffiti brighten up dull areas in cities or do people find it threatening?

Why do you think people spray graffiti around cities? Will it ever be stopped?

Speaking
IELTS Part 2

- 1 Work in pairs for exercises 1–4. Read the extract below in which the candidate is responding to the Part 2 task card below. As you will see, each point in the answer needs to be expanded to make it long enough for the exam.

I'm going to describe a piece of art, which I think is a work of great craftsmanship and the most beautiful object in the world for me. It is David by Michelangelo, who is a great Italian sculptor. The first time I saw it was when I went from Rome to Florence to see my aunt ... One day she took me there to visit the statue of David. I didn't want to go as I hated art galleries and museums ... I thought they were boring and old-fashioned ... But I was completely overawed, because it is such a breathtaking sculpture ... As for its appearance, it is very tall and it is made of marble. The statue is looking off into the distance as if he is looking into the future ... Because Michaelangelo's David changed the way I looked at art galleries, I shall always be very fond of it.



Describe your favourite work of art.

You should say:

what the work of art is

when you first saw it

what it looks like

and explain why you like this work of art.


- 2 Number the parts of the topic **1–4** on the task card and add the numbers to the relevant sections of the extract.
- 3 Underline any words or phrases in the extract that you think the candidate included in their notes.
- 4 Add sentences and clauses to the extract to make it longer. Remember you should speak for one to two minutes.

- 5 When you are speaking in the exam it is important to try to speak fluently. This does not mean you need to speak fast but at natural speed. One way to help you is to try to control your breathing. A simple technique is to learn where there are natural breaks and take a shallow breath. Look at the first sentence from the extract in exercise 1.

I'm going to describe a piece of art, which I think is a work of great craftsmanship and the most beautiful object in the world for to me.

You can take a shallow breath after the words *art*, *craftmanship* and *object* and your voice can go up. At the last word in the sentence your voice goes down and you can take a slightly longer breath.

With a partner, go through the text and mark in pencil where you think the natural breaks are. Then read the text to each other.

- 6 Make notes to prepare your answer for the topic in exercise 1. Try to use some of the words and structures from this unit.
- 7  With a partner, take turns talking about the topic, using your notes to guide you. When your partner has finished speaking, give him/her feedback using the checklist on page 210.

10 Review

Vocabulary

1 In 1–8 below, there is one word missing. Decide which word is missing in each sentence.

- 1 Actors and actresses act in plays or films. Sometimes some of them become famous because they star in soap.
- 2 He the symphony and conducted the orchestra at the performance.
- 3 She has written many fantasy novels but people still do not think that she is a great, but there are many children and adults who would disagree.
- 4 As a playwright, he wrote many and even directed some of his works in well-known theatres, appearing from time to time on the stage himself.
- 5 Is a newspaper journalist an? Many would like to think they have artistic qualities.
- 6 He was a great and painter, having carved many famous statues and painted many of the world's greatest paintings.
- 7 The producer got on well with the actors and in the film, but he didn't always like the way the director directed it.
- 8 The choreographer arranged the ballet very carefully, but some of the found it very difficult to perform.

2 For texts 1–3 below, underline the correct word in *italics*.

1
Studying *drama/play* at secondary school is a very good way to be introduced to acting. Many schools have their own *stages/theatres* at the front of the gym with *scenery/background*. *Drama/Actor* teachers are in great demand to *produce/compose theatres/plays* each year. It isn't very *highbrow/drama*, but everyone enjoys it so I think it's good for drama to be taught at school.

2
For some people I think graffiti can cause problems, because it can make urban areas seem quite threatening. But is it an act of vandalism? I personally don't think so. It is in many ways like primitive art. The problem, I think, is that *extract/abstract* art, like a lot of graffiti, isn't easy for people to understand, but then how much do people these days understand about paintings by *classical/orthodox* artists? Who for instance can unravel the *allusions/illusions/delusions* in early works of art. And I think there are places where graffiti can be a work of *art/artists*.

3
Yes. It's far from easy for people to be able to *appreciate/see/realize* modern art. But if they look at it in greater depth, they will see it in a more *favourable/critical/approving* way.

3 Match the following questions from IELTS Speaking Part 3 with the three texts 1–3 in exercise 2.

- a Do you think it is easy for people to understand modern art?
- b In your opinion is graffiti an act of vandalism?
- c What is the benefit of teaching drama at secondary school?

Defining and non-defining clauses

- 1 For 1–10 below, link the two sentences together with a relative pronoun or zero relative where necessary. Make any necessary changes. There may be more than one possible answer.
- 1 I saw the film. You recommended it to me last week.
 - 2 That is the house. I bought it last year.
 - 3 Literature is popular in my country. It is compulsory in the school curriculum.
 - 4 The gallery had its main piece of art stolen. The gallery is at the end of the street.
 - 5 Some children are very advanced at school. Some children's parents take them to museums.
 - 6 The film was attacked by the critics. It was four hours long.
 - 7 Many books are published each year in the UK. The books do not sell many copies.
 - 8 My favourite work of art is not a huge tourist attraction. It is a building in Ireland.
 - 9 Some types of music are very popular in my country. They are not well-known elsewhere.
 - 10 The man is wearing a red hat. He is the director of the film.
- 2 Complete the following sentences with a relative pronoun where necessary. There may be more than one possible answer.



- 1 One of my sisters, _____ is a dancer, got married yesterday.
- 2 Music, _____ they say is good for the soul, is certainly very uplifting.
- 3 The antique car _____ we saw in the showroom has been stolen.
- 4 Modern dance, _____ many young people are attracted to, is good exercise as well as being an art form.
- 5 A famous footballer, _____ name you know, was at the party last night.
- 6 Exhibitions, _____ can be outdoors as well as indoors, are good for children to visit.
- 7 The type of science _____ I liked most at school was physics.
- 8 The musical _____ was very boring has attracted huge audiences.

Proof reading

As quickly as you can, find the mistakes in sentences 1–7 below.

- 1 Art exhibition can sometimes be criticized for being elitist as they are very expensive.
- 2 Bronze scultures appear to be very old-fashioned nowadays.
- 3 The performing arts are much more relaxed to engage with that art exhibits.
- 4 Street art as an art form is changing the way young people interact with their enviroment.
- 5 Literature, which is more than 100 years old, is not really relevant to the modern world.
- 6 Artists are valuable to any society because they push boundries and challenge established thinking.
- 7 The vision arts, which includes paintings, etc. are much more engaging than the performing arts.