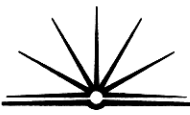


## Question 9

"Evaluate the view that art reflects the social values of a particular time and place."

It would be difficult to disagree with a statement that art reflects the social values of a particular time and place as art and social values are ~~intricately~~ ultimately linked. Artworks always have and always will be reflecting social values as even though an artist's intentions may be personal and not to make a social comment, social values will influence the artist therefore influencing the work. It's through examination of these works that the social values reveal themselves. Many art movements throughout history have proved ~~that~~ that the social values are reflected in art.

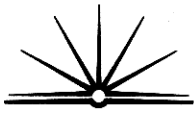
The Renaissance period of the 16th century showed a very repressed society with strict rules and a life of religion. The ~~only~~ main type of art was the religious kind as religion was



the most important part of the people's lives.

Raphael was a wonderful artist who through commissions by the church created many famous artworks such as "Madonna with Child" and "Sistine Madonna." These works were to be worshipped and used to record stories of the Bible. The only other subjects than religious ones were philosophers and very esteemed members of society. These works by Raphael, Michelangelo and Botticelli just to name a few showed the attitude that the common man was not of any importance. Women ~~only~~ featured in religious or mythological paintings and were always covered up.

During the Russian Revolution an anti-art movement emerged known as Dadaism. Dadaism was against all art and set out to mock and satirise all the old and highly revered works. This was ~~was~~ a revolution by the people against all those <sup>in power</sup> who loved all the old masterpieces with their ideals but let their



own country fall into despair. Buchamp's

Mona Lisa with a moustache drawn on it

shows his distaste <sup>or disgust</sup> at the ~~renaissance~~ way

these renaissance works are worshipped but

the ideals are lost by those in power. This was a <sup>revolt</sup> against all art forms by society and the works reflected this.

Balla ~~created works which~~ sought out

to push society forward. Society was on the

verge of the industrial revolution, they were

experiencing the automobile and a new way

of life with machinery. Balla's work "Abstract

speed - the car has passed" embodies the need

for society to keep moving forward. ~~Another~~ Another of

his works "dog on a leash" shows a dog and

speeding to keep up with its owner with its legs

moving furiously. The viewers can almost feel the

speed due to the repetition of the legs giving the

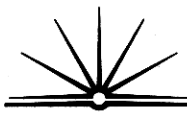
illusion of movement. These works showed societies

eagerness to keep moving forward with all

the new and exciting inventions and creations.

A new way of life was about to explode and

the futurists were exploring this concept.



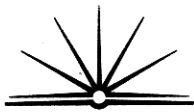
The 1950's and 60's saw a change from exploring the subject to exploring the influences on a subject. Artists started to recognise how much the media, mass <sup>consumerism</sup> ~~production~~ and advertising affected the individual. Andy Warhol ~~was~~ had many works which made a comment on how the public is constantly bombarded with images and advertising urging them to buy this, try that, be beautiful and idolise the stars. The Pop Art artists reflected how consumed and manipulated the population had become and what they were now valued compared to a century ago. They valued looks more than ever and ~~popularity~~ popularity was a must.

More recent artists like Cindy Sherman reflect women's role in society and her feelings about gender through her works. ~~They~~

~~women are still fighting for equality~~

They reflect women's constant struggle for equality even up until today.

① I believe that with artworks as



evidence you can quite clearly conclude that the social values of a particular time and place do in fact reflect in the art of that time. Even if it is unintentional an artist cannot help but create a product which reflects the time.