

Academic Reading Practice Test 19

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Instructions for Taking the Test

Read the rules and regulations carefully before the test:

1. Switch off your mobile phone and electronic devices.
2. Manage your time strictly to **20 minutes** per passage, reading questions first to guide your skimming and scanning for answers, always paying close attention to word limits and matching synonyms.
3. Read the instructions thoroughly before answering the questions.
4. Read the questions carefully to avoid silly mistakes.

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Henry Moore

In the 20th century art world, Henry Moore was the leading British sculptor. Henry Moore was born in the small town of Castleford near Leeds in the North of England. Raymond Moore and Mary Baker are his parents, he was the seventh child in his family. He did schooling at Castleford grammar school from 1909 to 1915. The place he got interested in art which was encouraged by the teacher named Alice Gostick. After the academics got over, Moore wanted to become a sculptor but instead as per his father's wish he got trained as a school teacher. In 1917, he had to leave his training as he was sent to France for the First World War.

After the war, Moore studied for two years at the Leeds School of Art. The first year was gone by learning and spending time on drawing. He wanted to study sculpture but there was no teacher appointed for that till his second year. In the final year, he got merit in the sculpture exam and was awarded with a scholarship to study in Royal College of Arts in London. In September 1921, he started his advanced studies of sculpture at London.

At Royal College he was instructed to visit the London museums and he visited many of them and particularly the British museums which contain a huge-range of ancient sculpture collections. The power and the beauty of the ancient Egyptian and African sculpture was discovered by him during the visits. There his interest over the primitive forms of art got increased and he got away from European sculptural traditions.

After graduation, Moore spent the first six months travelling in France in 1925. His visit to the Trocadero Museum in Paris made him get impressed by the cast of Mayan sculpture of rain spirit. The sculpture was a male reclining figure with knees lifted up together and his head in the right angle to its body. Moore got more interested by seeing this stone sculpture and he thought that no other stone sculpture had this much power and originality. That made him sculpt in stone in various subjects that includes reclining women, groups of mother and childs, and masks.



The exceptional talent of Moore got recognition which made him work as a sculpture instructor at Royal College in 1926. In 1933, he became a member of unit one which has groups of young artists. The group's motto is to convince the English public of the emerging international movement of modern art and architecture.

In this period, Moore started experimenting with abstract shapes moving away from human figures. At the Leicester galleries in London he held an exhibition. His work got a huge welcome from the fellow sculptors but in the press it got negative reviews. This turned Moore into a notorious figure. And from the Royal College he resigned and the following year he started a sculpture department at the Chelsea School of Art in London.

Throughout the 1930s, Moore did not work to convince the British public. He got interested in the paintings of the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso which inspired him to distort the human body in a radical way. Sometimes he abandons the human figure altogether. In this period, the sketchbooks of Moore reveal the ideas of abstract sculptures that have some resemblance to humans.

During the Second World War in 1940, Moore stopped teaching at Chelsea school and went to a farmhouse 20 miles north of London. Due to the shortage of materials he started drawing. He started with small sketches of Londoners and later turned that into the large colour drawings in his studio. In 1942, he returned to Castleford to sketch a series of miners working there.

In 1944, a town near London named Harlow offered Moore a commission to sculpt a family. The output shows a great change in Moore's style which is away from the experimentation of natural and human subjects done in 1930. He did many studies in clay for sculpture and they were cast in bronze and issued in 7 to 9 editions. By doing this Moore's work is available to collectors across the world. The raise in income made him focus on the great projects and worked on the scale based on the demand he felt for his sculptures.

Critics who thought that Moore had become less revolutionary were proven wrong. In 1950, the series of standing figures in bronze with the harsh and angular pierced forms and direct impression of menace did that. In 1950s, Moore varied his subject matter with works such as *Warrior with Shield* and *Falling Warrior*. It is the rare example of Moore's use of male figures which happened from the visit to Greece in 1951 where he studied the ancient work of art.



In the final years, the Henry Moore Foundation was created to promote his art and to display his work. He was the first modern English sculptor who gained international recognition and is still regarded as one of the most important sculptors of the 20th century.

Henry Moore IELTS reading questions

Questions (1-7)

Do the following statements match the information with the passage?

Write

YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1. After his schooling Moore learned about sculpting
2. In the first year of Leeds school of art he studied about sculpting
3. At royal college of art he gained recognition for teaching sculpture excellently
4. Only by visiting the London museums, Moore got aware of ancient sculpture
5. Mayan sculpture in the Trocadero museum gains a lot of public interest.
6. Moore thought that Mayan sculpture was similar to other stone sculptures.
7. The unit one members wanted to make modern art and architecture popular.

Questions (8-11)

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

8. He _____ from the Royal college.
9. Moore began sketching because of the unavailability of sculpture _____.
10. Moore did drawings of _____ while visiting his hometown.
11. Moore's work was purchased by _____ at the beginning.

Questions (12-14)

Choose the correct letter, a, b, c or d

12. For which institute Moore got a scholarship award?
 - a. Castleford grammar school
 - b. Royal College of Arts
 - c. Leeds School of Art
 - d. Chelsea School of Art



13. What sculpture made Moore receive commission?

- a. Warrior with shield and falling warrior
- b. Mayan sculpture
- c. Abstract sculptures
- d. Family sculpture

14. Which series of Moore gained recognition?

- a. Primitive forms of art
- b. Reclining women
- c. Standing figures in bronze
- d. Abstract sculpture

[Click Here to Check Answers](#)



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Answers for IELTS Academic Reading Practice Test 19

1. No	2. No	3. Not Given	4. Yes
5. Not Given	6. No	7. Yes	8. Resigned
9. Materials	10. Miners	11. Collectors	12. Royal College of Arts
13. Family Sculpture	14. Standing figures in bronze		

How many questions did you get right?

Correct Answers (Out of 13)	Your Next Step
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