Proves d’accés a la universitat 2019

Llengua estrangera
Anglès
Sèrie 5 - A

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Etiqueta de l’alumne/a

Etiqueta de qualificació

Etiqueta del corrector/a
Leonardo’s Salvator Mundi: Art or Business?

Salvator Mundi, the long-lost Leonardo da Vinci painting of Jesus Christ ordered by King Louis XII of France more than 500 years ago, has been sold in New York at Christie’s, the well-known auction house, for more than $450 million, breaking the world record of any work of art sold at auction. It far surpassed Picasso’s Women of Algiers, which was sold for $179.4 million at Christie’s in May 2015.

Christie’s marketing campaign was unprecedented in the art world. It was the first time the auction house had paid an agency for an advertising campaign. Christie’s produced a video that compared the painting to “the discovery of a new planet” and showed celebrities like Leonardo di Caprio and Patti Smith viewing it. Christie’s called the work “the last da Vinci,” the only known painting by the Renaissance master still in a private collection (some fifteen others are in museums), and “the biggest discovery of the 21st century.” In short, Christie’s ran a brilliant marketing campaign for a painting with a very complicated history.

The oil on wood panel painting depicts a half-length figure of Christ as Savior of the World, facing frontally and dressed in flowing blue and crimson robes. He holds a crystal orb in his left hand as he raises his right hand in benediction.

Leonardo, who died in 1519, is thought to have painted Salvator Mundi sometime after 1500, during the same period that he produced the Mona Lisa. It became part of the British Royal collection in the early 17th century. It then disappeared in 1763 until 1900, when it was acquired by Sir Charles Robinson, an art collector, for the Cook Collection in Richmond, England. At the time, the painting was thought to have been by Leonardo’s follower, Bernardino Luini. In 1958 the painting was sold by Sotheby’s (Christie’s rival auction house) for just £45 and the painting disappeared once again until it showed up in Louisiana in 2005.

It was acquired, badly damaged and partly painted-over, by a consortium of American art dealers who paid less than $10,000 for it. They restored it extensively and documented its authenticity as a work by Leonardo.

The masterpiece was long believed to have existed but was generally presumed to have been destroyed. In 2011, following six years of investigations, the work was confirmed as a genuine work of art by Leonardo and unveiled publicly at London’s National Gallery, making it the first discovery of a painting by Leonardo since 1909. The painting was then sold to a Swiss art dealer, who then sold it to a Russian billionaire in 2013 for $127.5 million in a private sale that became the subject of a continuing lawsuit. The Russian family has sold the painting, which was bought by a prince from Saudi Arabia and will eventually be displayed in the new museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Christie’s says most scholars agree that the painting is by Leonardo, though some critics have questioned the attribution and some say the extensive restoration makes it impossible to determine the work’s authorship. Before the auction, over 27,000 people had lined up at viewings in Hong Kong, London, San Francisco and New York to see the painting. Most of the people in line did not seem to care if Leonardo had actually made the work himself, or how much of the canvas had been repainted and restored. They just wanted to see a masterwork that dates from about 1500 and was rediscovered in 2005.


to depict: representar
crimson: carmesí
unveiled: descubiert / descubierto
lawsuit: demanda judicial
Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is correct.
[3 points: 0.375 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.125 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. The first owner of Salvator Mundi was
   □ the auction house Christie’s.
   □ King Louis XII of France.
   □ a Russian art dealer.
   □ an anonymous American collector.

2. Before they put the painting up for sale, Christie’s
   □ showed it to professional collectors in France.
   □ had the painting put in a new frame.
   □ made a video to show the painting.
   □ tried to cover up the painting’s complicated history.

3. Most of Leonardo da Vinci’s paintings that still exist are
   □ on exhibit in museums.
   □ owned by private collectors.
   □ currently being restored.
   □ in very poor condition.

4. Salvator Mundi has been in known hands
   □ since the 16th century.
   □ for seven years, when it was first shown to the public.
   □ only since it was acquired by a group of American art dealers thirteen years ago.
   □ only for a short time compared with its 500+ years of existence.

5. In 2005, a group of Americans
   □ bought the painting from a museum in Richmond, England.
   □ found the painting in a garage in San Francisco.
   □ purchased the painting and then had it cleaned and restored.
   □ lent the painting to the National Gallery in London for a major art exhibition.

6. Which of the following is NOT true?
   □ Christie’s auctioned the painting for a Russian family.
   □ Christie’s sold the painting to a Russian family.
   □ A Russian family bought the painting after it had been restored.
   □ A Swiss art dealer made a controversial sale to a Russian billionaire.

7. Which of the following best describes this painting of the Salvator Mundi?
   □ There is no doubt that the painting is by Leonardo da Vinci.
   □ There is little evidence to support that Leonardo da Vinci was the painter.
   □ A few art critics claim that the painting is by Leonardo da Vinci.
   □ Despite extensive restoration, most experts believe the painting was done by Leonardo da Vinci.

8. According to the text, most of the people who lined up to see the Salvator Mundi
   □ did not believe that it was done by Leonardo da Vinci.
   □ were not very concerned about the details of restoration.
   □ were celebrities like Leonardo di Caprio and Patti Smith.
   □ were representatives of potential buyers from around the world.
Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Your answer should be 125-150 words in length. There is no specific penalty for exceeding 150 words in length. Extra points are not given for exceeding 150 words.

[4 points]

1. Art plays an essential role in all cultures, and for thousands of years people have been creating, criticizing, and enjoying art. Imagine that you are visiting an art museum or exhibit, and you would like to share your feelings and sensations with your best friend. Write an email to him/her explaining your experience. Make sure you do NOT use your own name in your email.

2. Governments often make many addictive substances illegal because they may harm the health of those who take them. But alcohol and tobacco may also be dangerous to a person’s health, and they are legal. Should the government make these substances illegal? Write an opinion essay.
Part 3: Listening comprehension

DOES HIGH SCHOOL START TOO EARLY?

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

*public policy*: política governamental / política gubernamental
*sleep-deprived*: privat de son / privado de sueño
*deprivation*: privació / privación
*melatonin*: melatonina

Ready?
Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

**Presenter**: Does high school start too early? Some experts say teens are *sleep-deprived* because of early school start times that are designed for adults. I’m Guy Raz, and today I’m talking with Dr. Wendy Troxel, Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Troxel’s research focuses on the relationship between sleep and health, as well as the implications for *public policy*.

[Now listen to the interview.]
QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.
[3 points: 0.375 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.125 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. Studies have shown that teenagers who sleep more
   □ do better at school.
   □ have earlier start times.
   □ need treatment for insomnia.
   □ are less active at school.

2. Approximately what percentage of American teenagers gets enough sleep?
   □ 10 %.
   □ 20 %.
   □ 50 %.
   □ 70 %.

3. Which of the following contributes directly to teens’ sleep deprivation?
   □ Governmental policy.
   □ Hormones.
   □ Social lives.
   □ Snapchat.

4. The text claims that for most teenagers, going to bed by 10:00 p.m. is
   □ a requirement imposed by the school system.
   □ not possible.
   □ a decision that was made years and years ago.
   □ setting them up for failure.

5. Reasoning, problem solving and good judgment can be characterized as
   □ impulsive and risky behaviours.
   □ higher order thinking processes.
   □ a consequence of sleep deprivation.
   □ factors preventing cognitive development.

6. According to Dr. Troxel, around the time of puberty
   □ teenagers feel sleepy around 7:00 p.m.
   □ teenagers’ bodies start releasing melatonin for two hours.
   □ teenagers’ biological clocks undergo a change.
   □ teenagers’ biological clocks wake them up at 4:00 a.m.

7. Which of the following sentences is TRUE?
   □ School absences increase by 25 % when schools start later.
   □ Teens miss the bus more often when schools start later.
   □ Fewer students graduate on time when schools start later.
   □ Standardized test scores improve when schools start later.

8. According to Dr. Troxel, the sleep-wake schedule that we experience during adolescence
   □ lasts for the rest of our lives.
   □ is temporary and will change in adulthood.
   □ improves our mental and physical health.
   □ increases our chances for future success.
L’Institut d’Estudis Catalans ha tingut cura de la correcció lingüística i de l’edició d’aquesta prova d’accés.

Etiqueta de l’alumne/a