

Portfolio tasks for Trinity-Ca' Foscari Critical Writing 2009

ISE II

Description of this level (B2):

Can write a clear and detailed description and evaluation a work of art (such as a film or a novel) or a cultural phenomenon (especially with regard to current lifestyles in the society in which one lives), by synthesizing information and comparing and contrasting differing viewpoints, using appropriate exemplification and showing evidence of effective structuring.

1. Write an overview of a recent film which has been awarded an Oscar and comment on whether you think it deserved the award or not.
2. Write an essay in which you describe the work of an Italian singer and song writer. Examine the reasons for his or her success and say whether you think he or she will continue to be successful in the future.
3. Some educators claim that many people today do not read books. Write an essay outlining what they are missing out on and making some suggestions to encourage reluctant readers.
4. Write a critical review of the writer, who is your opinion, is most in touch with the realities of the contemporary world and investigate how he or she is able to communicate them to the reader.
5. According to the proverb, 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. Write an essay giving your own opinion of the topic, referring to relevant examples from the visuals arts.

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ISE III

Description of this level (C1):

Can write a critical appraisal of a work of art, such as a novel, a film, or a collection of poetry, or present a critical overview of a cultural phenomenon, such as an institution or a lifestyle, or of an economic, historical or linguistic issue, isolating and developing the main thrust of the argument with some assurance, identifying supporting themes or typical features, and evaluating the work appropriately against the background to which it belongs.

1. 'Who does the English Language belong to? Its native speakers or anyone who uses it?' Write an essay evaluating both sides of this debate and concluding with your own opinion from your perspective as a learner.
2. Write a critical review of the writer, who in your opinion, best captures the fragmented, globalised dimension of the world in which we live.
3. 'Italian design' is appreciated around the world, but what is it and what characteristics does it display? Write an overview investigating the phenomenon, referring to different examples.
4. Italy has been described as a country where reforms do not happen, although everyone agrees that they should. Write an essay commenting on this paradox. Try to identify the root of the problem and support your views with relevant examples.
5. Too much money is spent by local municipalities on cultural events which are of no great significance or utility to local communities. Discuss this statement indicating how far you consider it to be true, referring to a local context you know well.