

# Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 03

The end of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century were marked by the development of an international Art Nouveau style, characterized by sinuous lines, floral and vegetable motifs, and soft evanescent coloration. The Art Nouveau style was an eclectic **one**, bringing together elements of Japanese art, motifs of ancient cultures, and natural forms. The glass objects of this style were elegant in outline, although often deliberately distorted, with pale or iridescent surfaces. A favored device of the style was to imitate the iridescent surface seen on ancient glass that had been buried.

Much of the Art Nouveau glass produced during the years of its greatest popularity had been generically termed "art glass". Art glass was intended for decorative purposes and relied for its effect upon carefully chosen color combinations and innovative techniques.

France produced a number of outstanding exponents of the Art Nouveau style: among the most celebrated was Emile Gallé (1846-1901). In the United States, Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) was the most noted exponent of this style, producing a great variety of glass forms and surfaces, which were widely copied in their time and are highly **prized** today. Tiffany was a brilliant designer, successfully combining ancient Egyptian.

The Art Nouveau style was a major force in the decorative arts from 1895 until 1915, although its influence continued throughout the mid-1920's. It was eventually to be **overtaken** by a new school of thought known as Functionalism that had present since the turn of the century. At first restricted to a small avant-garde group of architects and designers. Functionalism emerged as the dominant influence upon designers after the First World War. The basic tenet of the movement – that **function should determine form** – was not a new concept. Soon a distinct aesthetic code evolved: form should be simple, surfaces plain, and any ornament should be based on geometric relationships. This new design concept, coupled with the sharp postwar reactions to the style and conventions of the preceding decades, created an entirely new public taste which caused Art Nouveau types of glass to fall out of favor. The new taste demanded dramatic effects of contrast stark outline, and complex textural surfaces.

Question 1: What does paragraph 1 mainly discuss?

- A) Production techniques for art glass
- B) Design elements in the Art Nouveau style
- C) The popularity of the Art Nouveau style
- D) Color combinations typical of the Art Nouveau style

Question 2: The word "one" refers to

- A) century
- B) coloration
- C) style
- D) development

Question 3: Paragraph 1 mentions that Art Nouveau glass was sometimes similar to which aspect of ancient burial glass?

- A) The appearance of the glass
- B) The distortion of the glass
- C) The size of the glass objects
- D) The shapes of the glass objects

Question 4: What is the main purpose of paragraph 3?

- A) To compare different Art Nouveau styles
- B) To explain why Art Nouveau glass was so popular in the United States
- C) To give examples of famous Art Nouveau artists
- D) To show the impact Art Nouveau had on other cultures around the world

Question 5: The word "prized" is closest in meaning to

- A) universal
- B) valued
- C) preserved
- D) uncommon

Question 6: The word "overtaken" is closest in meaning to

- A) applied
- B) expressed
- C) inclined
- D) surpassed

Question 7: What does the author mean by stating that "function should determine form"?

- A) The design of an object
- B) The form of an object should not include decorative elements.
- C) A useful object should not be attractive.
- D) The purpose of an object should influence its form

Question 8: It can be inferred from the passage that one reason Functionalism became popular was that it

- A) was easily interpreted by the general public
- B) reflected a common desire to break from the past
- C) clearly distinguish
- D) appealed to people who liked complex painted designs

Question 9: Which of the following statements about Functionalism?

- A) It started on a small scale and then spread gradually.
- B) It was not attractive to architects and designers
- C) It was a major force in the decorative arts before the First World War
- D) Its design concept avoided geometric shapes.

Question 10: According to the passage, an object made in the Art Nouveau style would most likely include

- A) a textured surface
- B) bright colors
- C) modern symbols
- D) a flowered design

# Answer Keys

Question	Answer
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	B

Question	Answer
6	D
7	D
8	B
9	A
10	D