

CULTURE

Should the arts be subsidised by the government, or left at the mercy of the market economy?

Is there an artist, artiste, author or composer you particularly admire? Make notes to prepare to tell the class about him / her.

People get the films they deserve. Is this true, or are our tastes being dictated by multimillion-dollar productions from Hollywood at the expense of local talent?

What is the future of the national cinema?

Give the basic plot of one of your favourite films, and tell the class about it.

Do you like live recordings, or do you prefer the “perfection” of the studio sound? When did you last go to a concert? What type of music was it, and did it come up to your expectations?

People seem to clap for ever at the end of a classical performance, no matter what the quality. Are they applauding the performance, being “good-mannered”, or congratulating themselves for being there?

How many people in the class play musical instruments, and how many think they are good at it? Could you put a class group together and agree on a type of music to play?

Does the sound of any particular musical instrument move you deeply, and is there one that you simply cannot stand? Give examples and reasons, if you can.

At no point in the world's history have there been more books available than today; why do most of us read so little?

Has a book ever changed your life or made you see the world from a new point of view? What was it, when, and do you know why?

Have you ever written any poetry?

Is there a future for live theatre? Have you ever taken part in a play? Describe the experience in detail.