

TOEFL Junior : Reading Comprehension Test 14

Read the passage . 60 - 100 minutes

Questions 41-50

The term “art deco” has come to encompass three distinct but related design trends of the 1920’s and 1930’s. The first was what is frequently referred to as “zigzag modern” –the exotically ornamental style of such skyscrapers as the Chrysler Building in New York City and related structures such as the Paramount Theater in Oakland, California. The word “zigzag” alludes to the geometric and stylized ornamentation of zigzags, angular patterns, abstracted plant and animal motifs, sunbursts, astrological imagery, formalized fountains, and related themes that were applied in mosaic relief, and mural form to the exterior and interior of the buildings. Many of these buildings were shaped in the ziggurat form, a design resembling an ancient Mesopotamian temple tower that recedes in progressively smaller stages to the summit, creating a staircase-like effect.

The second manifestation of art deco was the 1930’s “streamlined modern” style—a Futuristic-looking aerodynamic style of rounded corners and horizontal bands known as “speed stripes.” In

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influenced by the decorative arts movements that immediately preceded it. For example, like “art nouveau” (1890-1910), art deco also used plant motifs, but regularized the forms into abstracted repetitive patterns rather than presenting them as flowing, asymmetrical foliage. Like the Viennese craftspeople of the Wiener Werkstatte, art deco designers worked with exotic materials, geometricized shapes, and colorfully ornate patterns. Furthermore, like the artisans of the Arts and Crafts Movement in England and the United States, art deco practitioners considered it their mission to transform the domestic environment through well-designed furniture and household accessories.

INSTRUCTION:

Read the questions carefully and refer to the text above then choose the best answer:

41. What aspect of art deco does the passage mainly discuss?
(A) The influence of art deco on the design of furniture and household accessories
(B) Ways in which government programs encouraged the development of art deco
(C) Architectural manifestations of art deco during the 1920's and 1930's
(D) Reasons for the popularity of art deco in New York and California
42. The word "encompass" in line 1 is closest in meaning to
(A) separate
(B) include
(C) replace
(D) enhance
43. The phrase "The first" in line 2 refers to
(A) the term "art deco"

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- (A) animal motifs
(B) flat roofs
(C) round windows
(D) "speed stripes"
46. The phrase "came to the forefront" in line 16 is closest in meaning to
(A) grew in complexity
(B) went through a process
(C) changed its approach
(D) became important

47. According to the passage, which of the following statements most accurately describes the relationship between art deco and art nouveau?

- (A) They were art forms that competed with each other for government support during the Depression era.
- (B) They were essentially the same art form.
- (C) Art nouveau preceded art deco and influenced it.
- (D) Art deco became important in the United States while art nouveau became popular in England.

48. According to the passage, a building having an especially ornate appearance would most probably have been designed in the style of

- (A) zigzag modern
- (B) streamlined modern
- (C) classical modern
- (D) the Arts and Crafts Movement

49. According to the passage, which of the following design trends is known by more than one

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ANSWERS KEY

- 41 C
- 42 B
- 43 B
- 44 A
- 45 A
- 46 D
- 47 C
- 48 A
- 49 C
- 50 C

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