

Reading passage 1 - Uffizi to double in size

Italy is to try to turn the Uffizi gallery in Florence into Europe's premier art museum, with an ambitious 56m euro (\$69m) scheme to double its exhibition space. Giuliano Urbani, Italy's culture minister, said the enlarged gallery would surpass "even the Louvre". By the time work is completed, visitors to the extensively remodeled Uffizi will be able to see 800 new works, including many now confined to the gallery's storerooms for lack of space. The project - the outcome of nine months of intensive work by a team of architects, engineers and technicians - is a centrepiece of the cultural policy of Silvio Berlusconi's government.

With refurbishment plans also afoot for the Accademia in Venice and the Brera in Milan, Italy is bent on securing its share of a market for cultural tourism that is threatened by the Louvre and by the "art triangle" of Madrid, which takes in the Prado, the Thyssen collection and the Reina Sofia museum of art.

Schemes for the expansion of the Uffizi's exhibition space stretch back almost 60 years. The latest was mooted in the 1990s. But the one adopted by the current government has reached a far more advanced stage than any of its forerunners. Roberto Cecchi, the government official in charge of the project, said last month that all that remained to do was to tender for contracts. The target date for completion of the project is 2006.

But the first changes will be seen as early as this month when a collection of pictures by Caravaggio and his school, currently crammed into a tiny room on the second floor, is to be moved to larger premises on the first.

Mr Cecchi said the biggest problem was "inserting a museum into a building that is itself a monument". The horseshoe-shaped Palazzo degli Uffizi, begun in 1560, was designed by the artist and historian Giorgio Vasari.

The latest plans are bound to stir controversy, involving as they do the creation of new stairwells and lifts in the heart of the building. There has already been an outcry over one proposed element, a seven-storey, canopy-like structure for a new exit by the Japanese architect Arata Isozaki.

At the heart of the plan is the opening up of the first floor, which for decades was occupied by the local branch of the national archives. This will allow visitors to follow a more extensive, and ordered, itinerary that would turn the Uffizi into what Antonio Paolucci, Tuscany's top art official, called "a textbook of art history".

As at present, visitors will be channeled to the second floor, where they will be able to study early works by Cimabue and Giotto before moving on to admire the gallery's extraordinary collection of Renaissance masterpieces, including Botticelli's *Primavera*. Asked if the expansion might increase the risk of inducing Stendhal's syndrome - the disorientation, noted by the French novelist, in those who encounter dozens of Italian Renaissance masterpieces - Mr Cecchi replied fatalistically: "Yes. It'll double it."

Adapted from an original article by John Hooper in *The Guardian Weekly* 20-03-04

Exercise 1: version 1

Questions 1 - 15

Look at the statements below, which are all **True** as regards the text above. Each statement has a blank space and after each one there are four alternatives (a-d). Add each alternative in turn to the statement and decide what effect each one has on the sentence: is the information in the sentence now **True/ False/ Not Given**?

Example

There are plans to increase _____ the space for displaying art at the Uffizi.

(a) twofold (b) slightly (c) by 100% (d) with great care

(a) **True**. It says in the text: ...*to double*

(b) **False**. See (a).

(c) **True**. It says in the text: ... *to double* ..., which means an increase of 100%

(d) **Not Given**. There is no mention of whether care or great care will be taken, even if we expect it to happen ourselves.

1. _____ works are not displayed, because there is not enough space in the gallery.

(a) *About half of the Uffizi's*

(b) *Many of the Uffizi's*

(c) *Large examples of the Uffizi's*

(d) *The majority of the Uffizi's*

2. Architects _____ have been working on the Uffizi project.

(a) *as well as other professionals*

(b) *engineers and technicians*

(c) *of international repute*

(d) *from all over the world*

3. Architects have been working on the Uffizi project _____.

(a) *with great enthusiasm*

(b) *with various other agencies*

(c) *for nine months*

(d) *for more than nine months*

4. _____ the plan to increase the space for displaying art at the Uffizi gallery is ambitious.
- (a) *The writer feels that*
(b) *It is clear that the cultural minister does not feel*
(c) *To most Italians,* (d) *The writer does not feel*
5. From the author's point of view, the plan to increase the space for displaying art at the Uffizi gallery is _____ ambitious.
- (a) *not that* (b) *not at all*
(c) *fairly* (d) *clearly*
6. Plans to increase exhibition space at the Uffizi go back _____ years.
- (a) *60* (b) *exactly 60*
(c) *nearly 60* (d) *more than 60*
7. The Uffizi scheme will _____ be finished by 2006.
- (a) *possibly* (b) *,at all costs,*
(c) *definitely* (d) *have to*
8. The present scheme will _____ be controversial.
- (a) *possibly* (b) *definitely*
(c) *probably* (d) *not*
9. The Palazzo degli Uffizi was designed by Giorgio Vasari, _____.
- (a) *who was an artist* (b) *who was an historian*
(c) *who was not a well-known historian*
(d) *who wrote many books on art history*
10. A collection of pictures _____, now in a small room on the second floor, will soon be transferred to larger premises.
- (a) *by Caravaggio* (b) *by Caravaggio and other artists*
(c) *of international importance* (d) *by Caravaggio and his followers*

11. One proposed seven-storey building at the Uffizi is _____
disapproved of.
- (a) *not* (b) *very much*
(c) *widely* (d) *unfortunately*
12. The first floor of the Uffizi gallery was occupied by the local branch of the
national archives _____.
- (a) *for a long time* (b) *for a few years*
(c) *which frustrated the Uffizi administration* (d) *for many years*
13. Removing the national archives from the Uffizi will allow _____ visitors
to follow a more extensive, and ordered, itinerary
- (a) *most but not all* (b) *all*
(c) *only some* (d) *the majority of*
14. _____ the Renaissance masterpieces at the Uffizi, including Botticelli's
Primavera, are extraordinary.
- (a) *To all Italians,* (b) *The writer does not think*
(c) *To most people,* (d) *According to the author,*

Exercise 1: version 2

Questions 1 - 15

Look at the statements below which are all **True** as regards the text above. Each statement has a blank space and after each one there are several alternatives. Add each alternative in turn to the statement and decide what effect each one has on the sentence: is the information in the sentence now **True/False/Not Given**?

Example

There are plans to increase _____ the space for displaying art at the Uffizi.

(a) twofold (b) slightly (c) by 100% (d) with great care

(a) **True**. It says in the text: ... *to double* –

(b) **False**. see (a).

(c) **True**. It says in the text: ... *to double* ..., which means an increase of 100%

(d) **Not Given**. There is no mention of whether care or great care will be taken, even if we expect it to happen ourselves.

1. _____ works are not displayed, because there is not enough space in the gallery.

(a) *About half of the Uffizi's* (b) *Many of the Uffizi's*

2. Architects _____ have been working on the Uffizi project.

(a) *as well as other professionals* (b) *engineers and technicians*
(b) *(c) of international repute*

3. Architects have been working on the Uffizi project _____.

(a) *with great enthusiasm* (b) *with other agencies*
(c) *for nine months*

4. _____ the plan to increase the space for displaying art at the Uffizi gallery is ambitious.
- (a) *The writer feels that* (b) *It is clear that the cultural minister does not feel*
(c) *To most Italians,*
5. The plan to increase the space for displaying art at the Uffizi gallery is _____ ambitious.
- (a) *not that* (b) *not at all*
6. Plans to increase exhibition space at the Uffizi go back _____ years.
- (a) *60* (b) *exactly 60*
7. The Uffizi scheme will _____ be finished by 2006.
- (a) *possibly* (b) *at all costs*
8. The present scheme will _____ be contentious.
- (a) *possibly* (b) *definitely*
9. The Palazzo degli Uffizi was designed by Giorgio Vasari, _____.
- (a) *who was an artist* (b) *who was an historian*
(c) *who was not a well-known historian*
(d) *who wrote many books on art history*
10. A collection of pictures _____ now in a small room on the second floor will soon be transferred to larger premises on the first.
- (a) *by Caravaggio* (b) *by Caravaggio and other artists*
(c) *of international importance*
11. One proposed seven-storey building at the Uffizi is _____ disapproved of.
- (a) *not* (b) *very much*
(c) *widely*

12. The first floor of the Uffizi gallery was occupied by the local branch of the national archives _____.
- (a) *for a long time* (b) *for a few years*
(c) *which frustrated the Uffizi administration*
13. Removing the national archives will allow _____ visitors to follow a more extensive, and ordered, itinerary
- (a) *most but not all* (b) *all*
(c) *only some*
14. _____ the Renaissance masterpieces at the Uffizi, including Botticelli's Primavera, are extraordinary.
- (a) *To all Italians,* (b) *The writer does not think*
(c) *To most people,*

Exercise 1: version 3

1. There are plans to increase _____ the space for displaying art at the Uffizi.
2. _____ works are not displayed, because there is not enough space in the gallery.
3. Architects _____ have been working on the Uffizi project.
4. Architects have been working on the Uffizi project _____.
5. _____ the plan to increase the space for displaying art at the Uffizi gallery is ambitious.
6. The plan to increase the space for displaying art at the Uffizi gallery is _____ ambitious.
7. Plans to increase exhibition space at the Uffizi go back _____ years.
8. The Uffizi scheme will _____ be finished by 2006.
9. The present scheme will _____ be contentious.
10. The Palazzo degli Uffizi was designed by Giorgio Vasari, _____.
11. A collection of pictures _____ now in a small room on the second floor will soon be transferred to larger premises.
12. One proposed seven-storey building at the Uffizi is _____ disapproved of.
13. The first floor of the Uffizi gallery was occupied by the local branch of the national archives _____.
14. Removing the national archives will allow _____ visitors to follow a more extensive, and ordered, itinerary
15. _____ the Renaissance masterpieces at the Uffizi, including Botticelli's Primavera, are extraordinary.

Exercise 2**Stage 1**

Read the summary below and decide what kind of word you need to fill each blank space, e.g. *a noun, verb etc.*

Italy plans to make the Uffizi in Florence into the ____1____ art museum in Europe, with a multi-million dollar ____2____ to increase the gallery's display ____3____, a project which may, in fact, ____4____. According to Italy's culture minister, the expanded gallery would be even ____5____ than the Louvre. Over most of the past year, a group of architects and other professionals have been working ____6____ on the ____7____, ____8____ is a centerpiece of the cultural policy of Silvio Berlusconi's government.

For ____9____ 60 years, there have been various ____10____ to increase the size of the Uffizi's space for ____11____ art. The Palazzo degli Uffizi is a ____12____ of the artist and historian Giorgio Vasari. In future, as at present, ____13____ visiting the gallery will go to the second floor, where they will find early works by Cimabue and Giotto. They will then move on to the gallery's ____14____ collection of Renaissance ____15____, including Botticelli's Primavera.

Stage 2

Now choose a suitable word of your own for as many of the blank spaces as you can.

Stage 3

Choose a suitable word from the list below for each blank space. You may use a word more than once

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. designed | 10. better | 19. exactly |
| 2. amazing | 11. practically | 20. these |
| 3. work | 12. schemes | 21. what |
| 4. programme | 13. displaying | 22. amazed |
| 5. fail | 14. display | 23. good |
| 6. foremost | 15. capacity | 24. paintings |
| 7. hard | 16. work | |
| 8. project | 17. those | |
| 9. which | 18. visiting | |

Exercise 3: post-reading vocabulary check

Choose the alternative which best fits the meaning of the word in the passage. In each case, there may be more than one answer. For example, in number 1 (a) is correct. Are any of the others?

- premier:** (a) principal (b) main (c) earliest (d) worst
- ambitious:** (a) courageous (b) greedy (c) needing extraordinary effort (d) timid
- exhibition:** (a) demonstration (b) illustration (c) display (d) show
- intensive:** (a) involving a lot of work (b) leisurely (c) with great effort (d) not serious
- bent [on]:** (a) half-hearted [about] (b) enthusiastic [about] (c) anxious [to] (d) determined [to]
- mooted:** (a) brought up (b) dismissed (c) proposed (d) disputed
- forerunners:** (a) ancestors (b) those who announce (c) pioneers (d) previous schemes
- crammed:** (a) packed neatly (b) squeezed (c) dumped (d) stuffed
- outcry:** (a) widespread protest (b) shout (c) noise (d) uproar
- surpass:** (a) be better than (b) be not as good as (c) equal (d) be larger
- extraordinary:** (a) out of the ordinary (b) boring (c) plain (d) attractive