



Aesthetics [PY 3130]

Introductory reading

Hanfling, O. (ed.) *Philosophical Aesthetics: An Introduction*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992).

Wollheim, Richard *Art and its Objects*. (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1978) second edition.

Sample examination questions

1. What needs to be assumed, if Plato's objections to poetry are to be met?
2. Does Aristotle provide an adequate account of our response to tragic drama?
3. Does Hume establish the existence of a standard of taste?
4. Does Kant succeed in showing that it is possible for a judgement which rests on a feeling of pleasure to have universal validity?
5. Does Schiller make a convincing case for the necessity of 'aesthetic education'?
6. Why does Hegel believe that art 'no longer satisfies our supreme need', and is he correct?
7. 'If the whole world as representation is only the visibility of will, then art is the elucidation of this visibility' (Schopenhauer). Discuss.
8. Explain and evaluate Nietzsche's notion of an 'aesthetic justification' of existence.
9. How, if at all, can music express emotion?
10. Can art be defined?
11. Does pictorial representation involve resemblance?
12. Are works of art physical objects?
13. Can we be moved by the fate of a fictional personage?
14. Must each literary work have one correct interpretation?
15. Is there any aesthetic difference between an original artwork and a perfect forgery?
16. Is the notion of pornographic art incoherent?
17. To what extent, if at all, should moral judgements influence aesthetic judgements?
18. 'The aesthetic attitude is a myth.' Discuss.