

For questions 1-12 read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

## Medieval visual art

Anyone examining medieval visual art for the first time notices at once that, for the most part, it is non-realistic, that is, it does not attempt to reproduce exactly what the eye sees, but rather the meaning. (0) *if*, for example, a king is taller than the walls of the castle beside (1) \_\_\_\_\_ he is standing, that is because he is 'more important' (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the castle.

The great allegorical and symbolic art of the Middle Ages testifies that the world we see must be 'read' correctly, if we are to understand its significance, its immanent meaning. The purpose of the art of the period is to help us to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ so. In many ways, medieval art holds up a correcting lens to the world (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that the spectator or reader can see it properly.

The architectural proportions of a medieval cathedral – the relationships between width and height, column circumference and height, and so on – reflect the proportions of the universe. To walk around a medieval cathedral is to move, quite literally, within a model of the universe, and the stained glass windows illustrate visually (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the brick and stones cannot render,

or, more importantly, what the illiterate common man (6) \_\_\_\_\_ read for himself in books. Non-verbal medieval art teaches us to 'read' the world correctly.

Let (7) \_\_\_\_\_ remember our medieval king (8) \_\_\_\_\_ is larger than his castle because he is more important. A realistic representation could never render this idea, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the eye sees a small man and a large castle. It is the mind (10) \_\_\_\_\_ attributes importance to the king; therefore the medieval presentation is, in a sense, more realistic than, for example, a photograph. We understand what a king is, and we read the situation correctly.

Even in modern realistic representations of a king, of course, some details help us to recognise the king's majesty: his crown, his sitting on a throne, his being surrounded by crowds, and so on. Which is to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that even modern realism relies (12) \_\_\_\_\_ some significant, almost symbolical details, that 'explain' an otherwise unintelligible picture. But it remains true that medieval art does so more openly and directly.

### KEYS

1 which	5 what	8 who	12 upon/on	4 so
2 than	6 cannot	7 us	11 say	3 do
3 because/since	9 because/since	10 that	12 that	2