

There are **6 questions** in this test.
Give yourself **10 minutes** to read the text and answer the questions.

*A town council is considering introducing a new graffiti wall in a skate park.
The following text has been written by a local councillor.*

Should we install a graffiti wall?

Graffiti (writing or drawing illegally in a public place) can be anything from a simple squiggle to complicated, beautifully drawn images. Some people feel it should be highly regarded. Others find it messy, unwanted and criminal. It is important to discuss both sides of this argument, now that we are considering installing a wall for people to graffiti on in the skate park.

On the one hand, since graffiti is often found on derelict buildings, it can be associated with areas that are run-down and maybe even dangerous; which is not an image we want for our skate park. Sometimes the message is unpleasant; sometimes the language used is offensive, or even violent — this is not something we want on display in a public place. Additionally, graffiti can damage property and it is difficult and costly to remove; our council doesn't have the money or the staff to clean it up. As a result, many people see graffiti only as deliberately destroying someone else's property — in other words, vandalism.

However, graffiti can also be a way for people, especially young people, to express their personality: a simple 'tag' (the artist's signature) can be creative and colourful. Some graffiti takes months of hard work and can brighten up a neglected area. A graffiti wall may also allow our young people to view modern art — which they may not otherwise come across — and to embrace freedom of speech.

It has been proposed that establishing special areas for graffiti — such as our skate park, which is already popular with young people — would prevent people from defacing local buildings. Some people disagree with this idea: they feel that any graffiti encourages criminal behaviour and that a legal graffiti wall will not prevent the spread of graffiti somewhere else.

Overall, despite the potential risks, it is likely that a dedicated graffiti wall in an otherwise dull skate park will encourage people in our town to express themselves artistically and safely.

1. Read each statement and **tick** to show whether it is fact or opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
An illegal drawing in a public place is called graffiti.	☐	☐
Graffiti is messy and unwanted.	☐	☐
The artist's signature is called a tag.	☐	☐
Graffiti encourages criminal behaviour.	☐	☐

1 mark

2. Give **two** reasons why the town council cannot remove graffiti.

1).....

2).....

1 mark

3. Give one reason why some people see graffiti as *vandalism*.

.....

.....

1 mark

4. Why might the skate park be a good location for the graffiti wall?
Mention **two** things.

1).....

2).....

2 marks

5. ...*would prevent people from defacing local buildings.*
What does the word *defacing* mean in this phrase?

Tick **one** box.

improving

☐

decaying

☐

spoiling

☐

destabilising

☐

1 mark

6. Using your own words, summarise what the author thinks about having a graffiti wall in the town.

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2 marks