

In an essay entitled "The Poet", published in 1844, the American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson lamented the narrow definition of beauty subscribed to by his peers, who tended to reserve the term exclusively for the bucolic landscapes and unspoilt pastoral scenes celebrated in the works of well-known artists and poets of the past. Emerson himself, however, writing as he was at the dawn of the industrial age, observing with interest the proliferation of railways, warehouses, canals and factories, wished to make room for the possibility of alternative forms of beauty.

At a time when recession is reminding us how badly we need work, it should be artists who teach us to discern the virtues of the furniture of contemporary technology. One can hope for a day when photographs of electricity conductors might hang over dining tables and when someone might write a libretto for an opera set in the sales office of a packaging firm.

We need an art that can proclaim the intelligence, peculiarity, beauty and horror of the workplace and, not least, its extraordinary claim to be able to provide us, alongside love, despite the current economic mayhem, with the principal source of life's meaning.

Answer the following questions briefly.

46. Why is the work of human beings unseen to a Martian?
47. What does the sentence "We are now as disconnected imaginatively from the production and distribution of our goods as we are practically in reach of them" (Paragraph Two) mean?
48. What is the root cause of the obscurity of the workplace?
49. What is the relationship between Paragraph Five and Six?
50. What should artists and poets do according to Emerson?

三、写作 (30 分)

"Students should bring certain skepticism to whatever they study. They should question what they are taught instead of accepting it passively." How far do you agree with the quotation above? Write an essay of about 400 words on the following topic:

Skepticism Should Be Encouraged in Education

In the first part of your essay you should state clearly your main argument, and in the second part you should support your argument with appropriate details. In the last part you should bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or make a summary.