



T.C.
BALIKESİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ
YABANCI DİLLER YÜKSEKOKULU



Semester and Type		Name-Surname:	
Date and Time:			
Duration:		Number:	
		Department:	

WRITING SECTION

Instructions: Choose ONE of the following topics and write a well-organized essay. You have 60 minutes to complete this section. Your essay must be structured with at least 5 paragraphs, following the outline below.

TOPICS (Choose one):

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All students should be required to study art and music in secondary school. Use specific reasons to support your answer.
2. Some people believe that newspapers are the best source of news. Others think that the news is presented better on radio or television. Which of these sources of news do you prefer? Use specific examples, too. Support your choice.
3. Some people pay money for the things they want or need. Other people trade products or goods for what they need. Compare the advantages of these two ways of obtaining things. Which way do you prefer? Explain why.

Write a well-organized essay about your chosen topic. Before you write, read the instructions below to plan your essay.

PLAN YOUR ESSAY:

- **An introductory Paragraph:** (Introduce the topic and state your thesis clearly)
- **Three supporting Paragraphs:** (Provide three clear reasons/examples to support your ideas)
- **Concluding Paragraph:** (Summarize your main points and restate your thesis)

WRITE YOUR ESSAY HERE:



SAMPLE ESSAY:

The Importance of Art and Music in Secondary Education

Education is often seen as a tool to prepare young people for their future careers, which is why subjects like mathematics, science, and languages are prioritized in schools. However, there is a growing debate about the role of the arts in the educational curriculum. Some people argue that art and music are just hobbies and should be optional, while others believe they are essential for young minds. I strongly agree that all students should be required to study art and music in secondary school because it fosters creativity, reduces academic stress, and improves cultural awareness.

Firstly, art and music classes are essential for developing students' creative thinking skills. In traditional subjects like math or chemistry, students are usually expected to memorize formulas and find one correct answer. In contrast, the arts encourage self-expression and imagination. When students paint a picture or compose a piece of music, they learn to think "outside the box" and solve problems creatively. This kind of innovative thinking is highly valuable not only in artistic fields but in almost every modern profession, from engineering to business.

Secondly, these subjects provide a much-needed break from the intense academic pressure of secondary school. Teenagers today face high levels of stress due to heavy workloads, frequent exams, and university preparations. Art and music classes offer a relaxing environment where students can escape from these pressures for a while. Engaging in creative activities, such as playing the guitar or molding clay, can be therapeutic. It allows students to express their emotions in a healthy way, ultimately improving their mental health and increasing their focus in other academic classes.

Finally, studying art and music broadens students' perspectives and promotes cultural awareness. The arts are a reflection of human history and society. Through art and music classes, students are introduced to different historical periods, global traditions, and diverse ways of life. For example, learning about African drumming or Renaissance painting helps students understand and respect different cultures. This exposure makes them more open-minded, empathetic, and tolerant global citizens, which is vital in today's interconnected world.

In conclusion, making art and music mandatory in secondary schools brings significant benefits to students' overall development. These subjects go far beyond simple entertainment; they actively nurture creative thinking, provide vital stress relief, and build cultural understanding. Therefore, schools should view the arts not as optional extra-curricular activities, but as fundamental components of a well-rounded and successful education.