UNIT 24

Questions 68 – 70

The questions in this unit are based on the painting, ‘Art Students’, on the opposite page, and the short passage below.

One contemporary critic described Art Students painted by E. Phillips Fox in 1895 as a work that lacked ‘composition’. Another contemporary critic described the piece as ‘in its unconventional way, very cleverly composed’.

Question 68

A critic might see Art Students as seeming to be ‘cleverly composed’ because it

A focuses attention to the left.
B focuses attention to the right.
C suggests action and interaction.
D has a realism that does not seem posed.

Question 69

Art Students is best described as being

A both a scene and portraits.
B portraits rather than a scene.
C a scene rather than portraits.
D neither a scene nor portraits.

Question 70 is based on the painting and the following additional comments.

The critic Robert Hughes described Art Students as ‘the first major impressionist work painted in Australia’. He stated that ‘its ordinary subject, stained smocks, and the dirty studio, especially affronted Melbourne taste in 1895’. Hughes described the paintwork of Art Students as austere, the tonality as low-keyed and sober, and the construction as beautiful.

Question 70

Robert Hughes suggests that Art Students ‘affronted Melbourne taste in 1895’ because it

A was an everyday scene.
B lacked Australian content.
C presented women as artists.
D was concerned with art rather than life.