Impressionism, Post-impressionism, Pointillism

2 Listen and read the texts. Match the paintings (A–C) to the art movements in the text.
Impressionism

Impressionism started in France in the 1860s. A group of artists, including Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, started to paint in a different way. They didn’t focus on specific people or objects. Their pictures were often of everyday scenes. They painted their ‘impression’ of moments in time, and they also used a new technique. They didn’t use blocks of colour, but created their pictures with lots of short, quick brushstrokes.

Glossary
(didn’t) focus (non) si concentravano/focalizzavano
brushstrokes pennellate
Post-impressionism

Post-impressionism started in 1886 and continued to about 1914. Post-impressionists developed new styles and tried different techniques. Famous Post-impressionists included Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and Vincent Van Gogh. They all developed very different styles. For example, Cézanne reduced objects to their basic shapes to give a sense of order, while Van Gogh used swirling brushstrokes and strong colours.

Pointillism

Pointillism was a part of the Post-impressionist movement. Its founder was the French artist, Georges Seurat. He used a similar technique to the Impressionists, but reduced the short brushstrokes to single ‘dots’ of colour. Seurat also created light and shade with combinations of dots in different colours. From a distance, the dots of colour created a clear image. The concept of Pointillism is very similar to pixels on a computer screen. If the dots are smaller, the picture is clearer and more defined.

Glossary

- reduced — trasformò
- swirling — circolari, a spirale
- dots — punti
- shade — ombra
3 Read the texts again and choose the correct answer.

1 What was usually the focus of Impressionist paintings?
   A individual people
   B specific objects
   C everyday scenes

2 When did the Post-impressionist movement begin?
   A 1860
   B 1886
   C 1914

3 Which artist invented Pointillism?
   A Vincent Van Gogh
   B Georges Seurat
   C Claude Monet

4 What technique did Pointillism use?
   A short brushstrokes
   B dots of colour
   C blocks of colour