

**Why do we continue to be fascinated by representations of the body?** Does the contemporary climate alter our response to images of the body? You may use examples from art history and/or theoretical debates as well as images from contemporary art practice to build your discussion.

- Past works
- Contemporary works
- What was the representation of the body like before contemporary climate
- **Continue** seems to say that there was a fascination before

contemporary = belonging to or occurring in the present

**Possible reasons people are fascinated by the body:**

- Desire
- Sex
- Gender
- Conforming
- Race
- Differences
- The Other
- Knowledge
- Self-awareness
- Self-discovery
- Self-representation
- Body Perfection

**Sex, broken down:**

- Objectification
- Desire
- Pleasure
- Pornography
- Reproduction
- Fetish
- Sexual appetites are different
- Sexuality
- Beauty
- Erotic
- Romance

**History of Sex :**

- Victorian repression
- 'Roman Orgy' Nero
- Hippy movment 'Free Love'
- Modern Taboo

## **Essay Plan:**

Question:

**Why do we continue to be fascinated by representations of the body?** Does the contemporary climate alter our response to images of the body? You may use examples from art history and/or theoretical debates as well as images from contemporary art practice to build your discussion.

## **Introduction:**

- Introduce your topic and that you are focusing on sex and the body.
- Summarise what you are going to be exploring in your essay; the artists, contemporary society and older society (keep it brief).

## **Paragraph One:**

- What was older societies western views on the body in relation to sex?
- What were the discourses? For example; women were made to wear clothes during sex, women weren't allowed to enjoy sex they were there to please the man. However on the other hand women were there for the male gaze, there to be looked at and admired. (ARTIST).

## **Paragraph Two:**

- However, in contemporary society...
- Talk about sociological views in western contemporary society about what the body is in relation to sex.
- What discourses surround sex in society?

### **Paragraph Three:**

- Bring in Artist Number one...
- Jeff Koons... who is he? What does he do? What does his work represent and show?
- How does this relate to contemporary views on sex and the body in western society?
- What are the criticisms of his work?
- How do these criticisms relate to western societies views on sex and the body (the discourses around the body). Add references.
- If possible...argue against the criticisms and use references.
- If possible...give example of a similar artist (if time and at the end).

### **Paragraph Four:**

- Bring in Artist Number two...
- who is he? What does he do? What does his work represent and show?
- How does this relate to contemporary views on sex and the body in western society?
- What are the criticisms of his work?
- How do these criticisms relate to western societies views on sex and the body (the discourses around the body). Add references.
- If possible...argue against the criticisms and use references.
- If possible...give example of a similar artist (if time and at the end).

### **Paragraph Five:**

- Bring in the other artist - who is he? What does he do? What does his work represent and show?
- How does this relate to contemporary views on sex and the body in western society?
- What are the criticisms of his work?
- How do these criticisms relate to western societies views on sex and the body (the discourses around the body). Add references.
- If possible...argue against the criticisms and use references.
- If possible...give example of a similar artist (if time and at the end).

### **Conclusion:**

- Answer the question rounding up your essay.
- Talk about what the older views were again briefly and how as society has changed the discourses have changed but to what extent? Are they similar? Are they completely different?
- Argue what your artists show?
- Basically conclude your findings should be about 200-400 words.