

Senior Division Round 4 Topic: Sistine Chapel Quodlibetical



The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome was painted by the great Renaissance artist Michelangelo in the sixteenth century and it is generally regarded as one of the greatest art works of the Western world.

It is discovered that the paint of the Sistine Chapel ceiling can be used to produce a drug which cures a type of Leukemia (cancer of the blood) which affects children under the age of 15 and is fatal. There are an estimated 50,000 children suffering from this disease at present in the world.

Although the paint can be synthesised in the laboratory, it would have to be aged for at least 200 years before it could be used to make the cure. Hence the only way the cure can be produced at present is by removing the paint from the Sistine Chapel ceiling, thus destroying the work. A decision must therefore be made as to whether or not the art work on the ceiling should be destroyed to make the cure.

Topic: "That the art work should be destroyed."