**Explain how one Surrealist work of art has been influenced by its political and/or social context. (5)**

Dali’s 1931 ‘Persistence of Memory’ shows the influence of the psychology of Sigmund Freud in its dream subject matter. He presents the work as a’dreamscape’, with the cliffs of his childhood Cadaques in fine detail in the back left of the composition. In the front, a dark deserted beach is both a void and a space, featuring elements redolent with death such as the coffin like box, ants, and tree to the left.

It also shows influence from the writings of both Apollinaire and Breton (in the latter’s Manifesto of Surrealisme, 1924) in its attempt to explore the subconscious mind and therefore to free the human imagination from the restrictions of either societal norms or copying nature. The work therefore is hard to read as a narrative: the creature in the centre of the composition has long eyelashes but an ambivalent or unclear shape.

Emerging from the Dada movement, the Surrealists as a group were profoundly influenced by the post-war angst of society in Paris in the 1920s and early 30s and this can be seen in the autumnal and cool colours in this work. The sea/sky has no division and the three melting clocks reflect the uselessness of time keeping as a system of control in a post-war world. Instead, Dali suggests, it is memories that haunt us in this enigmatic work.