Zara’s Patterned Printmaking Workshop

Learning objective: To understand the techniques of printmaking and how to create repeating patterns using relief methods.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of art techniques to explain your creative choices. Use the word bank to help you answer.

Word bank: Relief · Brayer · Block · Pattern · Impression · Ink · Reverse

1. Zara is using a piece of foam to create a stamp. Why must she carve her design in reverse if she wants the final print to show words or a specific direction? (2 marks)

2. Describe the purpose of a brayer in the printmaking process. What happens if you use too much or too little ink on your block? (2 marks)

3. If you want to create a repeating pattern on a large piece of paper, explain the technique you would use to ensure your prints are spaced out evenly. (2 marks)

4. What is the difference between an 'original print' and a 'drawing'? Explain why a printmaker can make many copies of the same artwork. (2 marks)

5. Zara wants to sell her handmade cards for £2.50 each. If she makes 10 prints and sells them all, how much money will she make in total? (1 mark)

Draw: In the space below, design a simple 'relief' pattern. Use a square box to represent your printing block and draw a bold, geometric shape inside it that could be easily carved.

Extension challenge: Research a famous printmaker or look at traditional block prints from around the world. Write two sentences about how they use colour to make their patterns stand out.