

Year 4 Art Assessment: The World of Abstract Art

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of abstract art techniques, the use of colour, shape, and emotion, and the ability to analyse artistic intent.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of colour theory, line, and form to answer. For longer responses, use full sentences and clear terminology.

Zara the zebra loves to observe the world. When she looks at a field of sunflowers, she doesn't just see petals; she sees swirls of golden yellow, jagged strokes of dark green, and a feeling of warmth. Zara creates 'abstract' art, which means she does not try to paint things exactly as they look in real life. Instead, she uses colours, lines, and shapes to express how she feels or to highlight a hidden pattern in nature.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Geometric · Organic · Primary · Secondary · Texture · Contrast · Expressionism · Vibrant

1. Define the term 'abstract art' in your own words. How does it differ from a realistic portrait of a person? (2 marks)

2. Zara uses 'organic' shapes in her artwork. Give two examples of where you might find organic shapes in the natural world. (2 marks)

3. Explain why an artist might choose to use 'cool' colours (like blue and purple) instead of 'warm' colours (like red and yellow) in an abstract piece. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a 'geometric' pattern with an 'organic' pattern. What makes them look different to the viewer? (4 marks)

5. If you were creating an abstract painting to represent the feeling of 'excitement', which colours and types of lines would you choose? Justify your artistic decisions. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Look at a piece of abstract art in your mind. Write a short paragraph describing the composition. Focus on how the artist has used space, contrast, and colour to create a specific mood or message. Why might this artwork be interpreted differently by two different people? (5 marks)

7. What might happen if all artists decided to stop painting realistically and only created abstract art? Discuss the impact this would have on how we record history. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, create a small abstract composition that uses only three colours and two types of lines (e.g., zig-zag and curved). Focus on creating 'contrast' between the shapes.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research an abstract artist who uses mixed media. Write a brief explanation of how adding 'texture' to an abstract painting changes the way the viewer interacts with the work.