

Year 4 Art Assessment: The Abstract World of Wassily Kandinsky

Learning objective: To evaluate pupils' knowledge of abstract art, colour theory, and the techniques used by Wassily Kandinsky.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of art history and colour theory to provide detailed answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and use accurate art vocabulary.

Wassily Kandinsky was a pioneer of abstract art. He believed that art did not need to represent real-life objects, such as houses or people. Instead, he used shapes, lines, and colours to express emotions and music. He often used circles, triangles, and squares to create balanced compositions. Kandinsky had a condition called synaesthesia, which meant he could 'hear' colours as sounds and 'see' music as shapes.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Geometric · Synaesthesia · Primary colours · Secondary colours · Contrast · Harmony

1. Define the term 'Abstract art' in your own words. Why might an artist choose to paint abstractly instead of painting a realistic picture? (2 marks)

2. Kandinsky often used geometric shapes in his work. Name three geometric shapes he frequently used and explain how repeating these shapes can create rhythm in a painting. (3 marks)

3. Describe the effect of using contrasting colours (such as yellow and purple) in an abstract composition. How does this impact the viewer's eye? (3 marks)

4. Zara the zebra is creating a painting inspired by Kandinsky. She wants to show 'happiness' using only colours. Which colours would you advise her to use and why? (3 marks)

5. Explain the concept of synaesthesia. How might an artist's ability to 'hear' colours influence the way they choose the composition of their artwork? (4 marks)

6. Compare and contrast a realistic landscape painting with a Kandinsky-style abstract painting. Discuss the differences in how they communicate ideas to the audience. (5 marks)

7. Justify your answer: Does an abstract painting require as much skill to create as a realistic portrait? Explain your reasoning using evidence from our study of composition. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, create a small, balanced composition inspired by Kandinsky's 'Squares with Concentric Circles'. Use at least three different geometric shapes and demonstrate your understanding of colour harmony.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Imagine you are an art critic. Write a short review of a new abstract exhibition. Use at least five words from the word bank and explain why abstract art is important in modern society. What might happen if artists were only allowed to paint realistic objects?