

Zara's Abstract Art Investigation: The World of Kandinsky

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style of Wassily Kandinsky and evaluate how geometric shapes and colours can represent emotions or music.

Use this template to explore the life and techniques of Wassily Kandinsky. Research his background and his theory of 'synaesthesia'—the idea that colours and shapes can sound like music. Reflect on his work and then design your own composition using his principles.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Geometric · Synaesthesia · Primary colours · Vibrant · Rhythm · Harmony

1. The Artist's Vision: Describe Kandinsky's artistic style using specific vocabulary. Why did he move away from painting realistic objects towards abstract art? (3 marks)

2. Analysing Composition: Choose one of Kandinsky's famous compositions. Explain how he uses lines, circles, and triangles to create a sense of movement or 'visual rhythm'. (4 marks)

3. The Music of Colour: Kandinsky believed certain colours represented specific musical instruments. If you were painting a 'symphony' of sound, which colours would you choose and why? (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare Kandinsky's abstract approach to a traditional landscape painting. Justify why an artist might choose abstract shapes over realistic detail to express a feeling. (4 marks)

5. Critical Evaluation: What might happen to the 'mood' of a Kandinsky painting if he replaced all his bright, vibrant colours with dull, muted grey tones? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Creative Synthesis: Design your own abstract piece in the space provided. List the shapes and colours you have chosen and explain the specific emotion or sound you are trying to represent. (5 marks)

Draw: Create your own abstract artwork in the style of Kandinsky. Focus on using overlapping geometric shapes, intersecting lines, and a deliberate colour palette to represent a piece of music or a specific emotion.



Extension challenge: Research the term 'Bauhaus' and explain the connection between Kandinsky and this influential art school. How did his teaching influence the development of modern design?