

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Abstract World of Wassily Kandinsky

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of Wassily Kandinsky's artistic style, his use of geometric shapes, and the relationship between colour and sound.

Read each question carefully before answering. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly. Show your artistic understanding in the final drawing section.

Wassily Kandinsky was a pioneer of abstract art. He believed that art should not just copy the real world, but should express inner feelings and ideas. Kandinsky was inspired by music and believed he could 'hear' colours. He often used bold, geometric shapes like circles, triangles, and squares to create balanced compositions that felt like a visual symphony.

Word bank: Abstract · Synaesthesia · Geometric · Composition · Primary colours · Emotion · Rhythm · Shape

1. Explain what 'abstract art' is in your own words. Why did Kandinsky choose this style instead of painting realistic portraits? (2 marks)

2. Kandinsky was fascinated by the idea of 'synaesthesia'. Based on the passage, what did this mean for his artwork? (2 marks)

3. Name three geometric shapes that Kandinsky frequently included in his work. (3 marks)

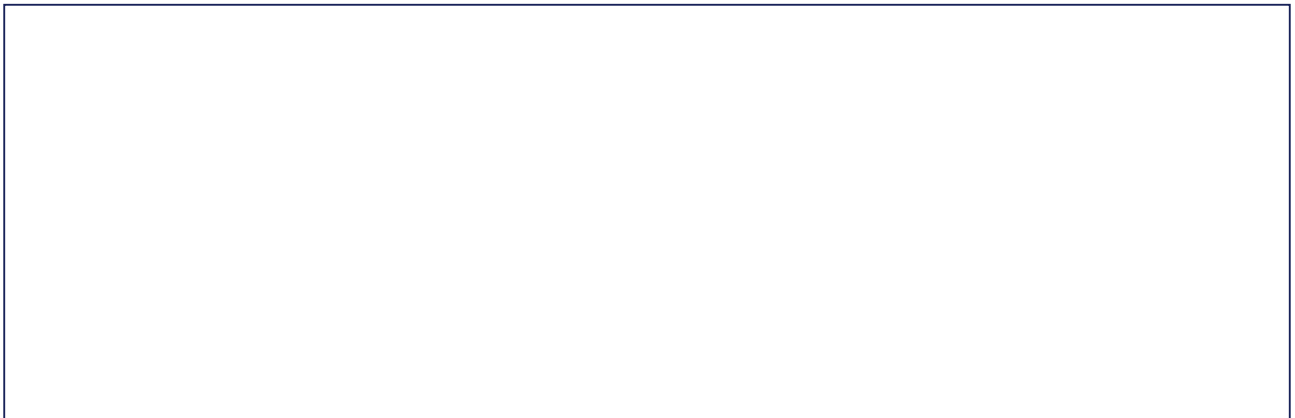
4. Look at a typical Kandinsky painting. How does the artist use colour and overlapping lines to create a sense of rhythm or movement? (4 marks)

5. Zara the zebra is creating a new painting inspired by Kandinsky. She wants to show the feeling of a fast-paced drum solo. Describe how she might use lines, colours, and shapes to represent this sound on her canvas. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are an art critic. Write a short paragraph describing a Kandinsky piece. Focus on how the shapes and colours make you feel and why you think he arranged them in that specific way. Use at least three words from the word bank. (5 marks)

7. Drawing Prompt: In the space below, create a small abstract composition using at least four different geometric shapes. Use your pencil or coloured pencils to show how overlapping these shapes can create a feeling of balance. (5 marks)

Draw: Create a Kandinsky-inspired composition using circles, triangles, and intersecting lines to show rhythm.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Can you research another abstract artist and list one way their work is similar to Kandinsky's and one way it is different?