

Year 4 Art Assessment: The Industrial World of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style, technique, and subject matter of L.S. Lowry and apply this knowledge to interpret and create art.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of L.S. Lowry's life and work to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate art vocabulary.

L.S. Lowry was a famous English artist known for painting industrial scenes in North West England. He often depicted busy streets filled with people he described as 'matchstick men'. His paintings frequently featured tall factory chimneys, terraced houses, and a grey, moody sky. Lowry used a very specific set of colours, often focusing on white, black, vermilion, Prussian blue, and yellow ochre. He famously said, 'I only use five colours, but I need them all.'

Word bank: Industrial · Matchstick men · Foreground · Background · Atmosphere · Perspective · Oil paint · Limited palette · Urban landscape

1. Identify two key features that L.S. Lowry often included in his paintings of industrial towns. (2 marks)

2. Why did Lowry choose to use a 'limited palette' of only five colours? Explain the effect this has on the viewer. (3 marks)

3. Look at a typical Lowry painting in your mind. Compare the scale of the human figures (the 'matchstick men') to the size of the buildings. What does this suggest about the life of the people living in these industrial areas? (4 marks)

4. Lowry often painted the sky in a dull, muted tone. How does this choice of colour influence the 'atmosphere' of his work compared to a painting with a bright, sunny sky? (3 marks)

5. Zara the Zebra wants to paint a modern town in the style of Lowry. If Zara were to paint a local park using Lowry's techniques, justify how she would change the colours and the shapes of the people to match his signature style. (4 marks)

6. Extended Response: Critically evaluate Lowry's work. Do you think his paintings are an accurate historical record of the Industrial Revolution, or are they an imaginative interpretation? Justify your answer using examples of his style, such as his use of perspective and detail. (5 marks)

7. Define the term 'perspective' and explain how Lowry used it to show depth in his busy street scenes. (4 marks)

Draw: In the space below, sketch a small section of your school playground using the 'matchstick men' style. Focus on capturing the movement of the figures and the simplified, geometric shapes of the background buildings, just as Lowry would.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Imagine you are an art critic. Write a short paragraph explaining why Lowry's choice to paint ordinary, working-class life was considered a bold and unique decision in the art world of his time. What might happen if artists today stopped painting realistic people and only painted simplified, symbolic figures?