

Exploring the Master of Modern Art: Pablo Picasso

Learning objective: To evaluate and apply knowledge of Pablo Picasso's artistic styles, including Cubism and his use of colour and perspective.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of art history and techniques to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and technical vocabulary is used correctly.

Pablo Picasso was a Spanish artist who revolutionised the way we see the world through art. He did not aim to paint things exactly as they looked in real life. Instead, he experimented with 'Cubism', where objects are broken apart and reassembled in an abstract form. By showing multiple viewpoints of an object on a flat canvas, Picasso challenged the traditional rules of perspective. His work often reflects his emotions, shifting from the sad, cool tones of his 'Blue Period' to the vibrant, energetic compositions of his later years.

Word bank: Cubism · Perspective · Abstract · Geometric · Monochromatic · Composition · Fragmentation

1. Define the term 'Cubism' in your own words. Why did Picasso choose to paint objects from multiple viewpoints at once? (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the 'Blue Period' with Picasso's later, more colourful work. How did his choice of colour influence the mood of his paintings? (3 marks)

3. Zara the zebra loves patterns. If she were to paint a portrait in the style of Picasso, name two specific techniques she would use to ensure it looked 'Cubist'. (2 marks)

4. Explain why Picasso's departure from realistic painting was considered a major breakthrough in the history of 20th-century art. (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is it more important for an artist to paint exactly what they see, or to paint how they feel? Use evidence from Picasso's work to support your argument. (8 marks)

6. What might happen if all artists decided to stop using realistic perspective? Describe the impact this would have on how we interpret images. (5 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, draw a self-portrait using geometric shapes to represent facial features. Ensure you include at least two different 'viewpoints' (for example, one eye shown from the front and one from the side).



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an art critic in the year 1910. Write a short persuasive review (100 words) defending Picasso's new style to a group of traditional artists who prefer realistic portraits. Total: /25