

Year 4 Art Assessment: The Wonders of Watercolour

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of watercolour techniques, colour theory, and the application of artistic processes.

Read each question carefully. Use the provided word bank to support your answers. Ensure your explanations use technical vocabulary where appropriate.

Zara the zebra is preparing a watercolour landscape for the BookFlik gallery. She explains that watercolour is a unique medium because it relies on the paper's white surface to provide brightness. By adding varying amounts of water to her paint, she can control how much light passes through the colour, creating soft transitions and delicate layers.

Word bank: translucent · wash · pigment · dilute · blending · consistency · opacity · saturation · gradient

1. Define the term 'translucent' as it applies to watercolour painting. Why is this property important for layering colours? (2 marks)

2. Zara wants to paint a smooth sky that changes from dark blue at the top to light blue at the bottom. Which technique should she use to achieve this, and how should she manage her water-to-pigment ratio? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'wet-on-wet' and 'wet-on-dry' techniques. Explain why an artist might choose one over the other when painting a detailed flower. (4 marks)

4. Max has £15.00 to buy supplies. He spends £4.50 on a set of brushes and £6.75 on a watercolour palette. How much change does he receive, and why is it important to clean brushes immediately after using watercolours? (3 marks)

5. Explain why 'saturation' changes when you add more water to your brush. How does this affect the final look of your artwork? (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: If you wanted to create a dark, moody forest scene, would you use many thin washes or thick, concentrated paint? Explain the effect this choice has on the atmosphere of the piece. (5 marks)

Draw: In the box below, demonstrate a 'gradient' wash using your pencil to represent where you would apply the most pigment and where you would add the most water. Label your areas.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are teaching a beginner how to paint a sunset. Write a short guide (approx. 100 words) explaining the process of creating a seamless blend between two colours. Use at least four words from the word bank in your guide. Total: /25