

Grade 4 Art Assessment: The World of Sculpture

Learning objective: To assess understanding of sculptural techniques, materials, and the work of 3D artists.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of form, texture, and construction methods to answer. Write clearly and show your working where necessary.

Sculpture is the art of creating three-dimensional objects. Artists choose materials based on how they want the final piece to look and feel. Some sculptors use a 'subtractive' method, where they remove material from a solid block, like carving stone. Others use an 'additive' method, building up layers of clay or joining together recycled objects to create an 'assemblage'. Many complex sculptures require an 'armature'—a strong internal frame—to support the weight of the materials before they harden.

Word bank: Form · Texture · Armature · Additive · Subtractive · Relief · Assemblage · Malleable

1. Define the term 'subtractive sculpture' and give one example of a material an artist might use for this technique. (2 marks)

2. Why is an 'armature' important when creating a large clay sculpture? Explain the purpose of this internal structure. (2 marks)

3. Zara is designing a sculpture made from recycled plastic bottles and cardboard boxes. Which sculptural technique is she using, and why is this method effective for her chosen materials? (3 marks)

4. Explain the difference between a sculpture 'in the round' and a 'relief' sculpture. (4 marks)

5. Compare the properties of clay and wire. Which material is more 'malleable' when first used, and how does the way you handle them differ? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you have been commissioned to create a public sculpture for your school garden. Describe what you would make, the materials you would choose, and the techniques you would use to ensure it is stable and visually interesting. Explain how the texture of your sculpture would change the way people interact with it. (5 marks)

7. If a sculptor buys a block of stone for £12.50 and a set of chisels for £8.75, what is the total cost of their materials? (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, sketch a design for a sculpture that uses an armature. Label the armature and the outer surface materials you intend to use.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine your sculpture costs £15.00 to make. If you sold it to a local gallery for £45.00, calculate your total profit.