

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Language of Abstract Art

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of abstract art concepts, including the use of shape, colour, and composition to represent ideas rather than literal objects.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of abstract techniques and the vocabulary provided to construct your answers. Ensure your written responses are detailed and reflect your understanding of how artists manipulate visual elements.

Abstract art does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of visual reality. Instead, it uses shapes, colours, forms, and gestural marks to achieve its effect. Artists like Zara the zebra focus on how lines and patterns can evoke emotions, often ignoring traditional perspective to create a unique visual rhythm on the canvas.

Word bank: Composition · Geometric · Organic · Primary · Contrast · Texture · Expressionism · Non-representational

1. Define the term 'Abstract Art' in your own words. Why might an artist choose this style instead of painting a realistic portrait? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast 'Geometric' shapes with 'Organic' shapes. Give one example of where you might find each in an abstract painting. (3 marks)

3. Explain why an artist might choose a limited colour palette (e.g., only cool colours) for an abstract piece. How does this affect the viewer's perception? (3 marks)

4. If you were to create an abstract piece representing the concept of 'Happiness', which shapes and colours would you prioritise and why? Justify your choices. (4 marks)

5. Critically analyse the role of 'Composition' in abstract art. What might happen if an artist ignores the balance and focal point of their work? (4 marks)

6. Extended Response: Zara the zebra claims that 'Abstract art is a language that everyone can read, even without words.' Discuss this statement. Use examples of how colour, line, and texture can communicate specific moods or stories to an audience. (9 marks)

Draw: Create a thumbnail sketch of an abstract composition titled 'The Sound of a Storm'. Use at least three different types of lines and two contrasting colour groups to convey the intensity of the weather.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the history of 20th-century Abstract Expressionism. Write a short paragraph explaining why this movement was considered revolutionary at the time compared to traditional landscape painting.