

Zara's Abstract Art Investigation: Exploring Wassily Kandinsky

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style of Wassily Kandinsky and apply his techniques of shape, colour, and emotion to your own compositions.

Use this template to conduct your own art study. Think like an artist as you examine Kandinsky's use of geometric forms and sensory associations. Provide detailed justifications for your creative choices.

Word bank: Composition · Geometric · Abstract · Synaesthesia · Primary colours · Rhythm · Harmony · Texture · Vibrant · Contrast

1. Compositional Analysis: Identify three geometric shapes used in a chosen Kandinsky piece and explain how their placement creates a sense of movement or rhythm. (3 marks)

2. Colour Theory: Kandinsky often associated specific colours with musical notes. If you were to paint 'joy', which colours would you select and why? Justify your choice using colour theory. (3 marks)

3. Compare and Contrast: Compare a piece of realistic landscape art with one of Kandinsky's abstract works. How does the lack of recognisable objects change how the viewer interacts with the artwork? (4 marks)

4. Justification: Why might Kandinsky have chosen to use harsh, jagged lines in some areas of his work and soft, curved lines in others? What emotional effect does this contrast have on the audience? (3 marks)

5. Hypothetical Scenario: What might happen to the 'mood' of an abstract painting if you replaced all the vibrant primary colours with muted, earthy tones? Explain the impact on the viewer. (3 marks)

6. Personal Reflection: How did your understanding of 'non-representational' art change after studying Kandinsky's techniques? Explain your development in perspective. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a new abstract composition titled 'The Symphony of Shapes'. Write a short paragraph justifying your choice of balance, focal points, and colour palette, ensuring you use at least four terms from the word bank.