

Zara's Art Masterclass: Exploring the Cubist Style

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate the artistic techniques of Pablo Picasso, specifically focusing on the Cubist movement and the use of geometric abstraction.

Use this template to explore the work of Pablo Picasso. Study his famous paintings and use your knowledge of his unique style to complete the sections below. Remember to look for shapes, multiple perspectives, and the way he rearranged reality.

Word bank: Cubism · Geometric · Perspective · Abstraction · Composition · Fragmented · Distorted · Avant-garde

1. The Essence of Cubism: Explain why Picasso chose to paint objects from multiple viewpoints simultaneously rather than using traditional realism. (3 marks)

2. Geometric Analysis: Describe the shapes and lines you identify in Picasso's work. How do these contribute to the overall mood of the painting? (3 marks)

3. Compare and Contrast: Compare a traditional portrait to a Cubist portrait by Picasso. What are the key differences in how the facial features are portrayed? (4 marks)

4. Justify Your Answer: Why is Picasso often described as an 'avant-garde' artist of the 20th century? Provide evidence from his artistic choices. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Picasso had painted a landscape using only soft, blended brushstrokes instead of sharp, angular lines? Explain the impact on the viewer. (3 marks)

6. Creative Reflection: If you were to paint an object from your classroom using the Cubist style, which object would you choose and how would you break it down into geometric shapes? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a self-portrait in the style of Cubism. You must incorporate at least four different geometric shapes and ensure that two features of your face are shown from different angles (for example, one eye in profile and one from the front). Write a short justification explaining your colour palette choices.