

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Mastery of Printmaking

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of printmaking techniques, including relief printing, pattern repetition, and the vocabulary of visual arts.

Read each question carefully. Use the vocabulary provided in the word bank to support your answers. Ensure your explanations are detailed to achieve the maximum marks available.

Zara the zebra is designing a new series of prints for an exhibition. She uses a lino block as her matrix, carving away the negative space to create a bold, high-contrast design. She carefully rolls ink onto the surface using a brayer, ensuring an even layer before pressing her paper down to create a crisp impression. Zara is experimenting with layering colours to see how overlapping shapes change the visual outcome.

Word bank: Relief · Brayer · Matrix · Impression · Overprinting · Composition · Texture · Registration

1. Define the term 'matrix' in the context of printmaking. Why is it essential to the process? (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between 'relief' printing and other forms of art, such as drawing with a pencil. (2 marks)

3. Zara is using a brayer. Describe the correct technique for using this tool to ensure a successful print. What happens if you use too much ink? (3 marks)

4. What is the purpose of 'registration' in a multi-coloured print? Explain why it is vital for precision. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the visual effects of using a smooth surface versus a textured surface for your base paper. How does the texture of the paper influence the final impression? (4 marks)

6. If Zara wanted to create a complex pattern using only one square lino block, how could she use rotation and repetition to achieve a sophisticated composition? Justify your method. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: You have been asked to lead a workshop on printmaking. Write a short guide (approx. 100 words) explaining the safety precautions required when carving a block and the artistic steps needed to create a layered, multi-coloured print. Use correct technical terminology. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, sketch a design for a lino block print inspired by nature. Indicate with shading or annotations which parts you would carve away (negative space) and which parts you would leave raised to hold the ink.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: What might happen to the quality of an edition of prints if the matrix begins to deteriorate or wear down after many impressions? How would an artist manage the consistency of their work if they were producing a limited edition of 50 prints to sell for £15 each?