

Still Life: Composition and Observation Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of composition, tone, and perspective in still life art.

Read each question carefully. Use your artistic vocabulary to explain your observations and techniques. Ensure your drawings are neat and demonstrate the use of light and shadow.

Zara the zebra is arranging a selection of fruit and pottery for her latest masterpiece. She considers how the light from the window hits the smooth skin of an apple, creating a bright highlight, and how the heavy ceramic jug casts a long, soft shadow across the table. She moves the bowl slightly to the left to improve the balance of her composition.

Word bank: Composition · Perspective · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Proportion · Foreground · Background

1. Define the term 'still life' in your own words. Why might an artist choose inanimate objects for a study? (2 marks)

2. Explain why light sources are crucial when drawing a 3D object on a 2D piece of paper. Use the terms 'highlight' and 'shadow' in your answer. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the 'foreground' and the 'background' of a still life arrangement. How does an artist make objects appear further away? (3 marks)

4. Zara is selling her artwork at a local fair. She sells 3 still life sketches for £8.50 each and 2 large paintings for £22.00 each. Calculate the total amount of money Zara has made. (3 marks)

5. Justify why 'proportion' is essential when drawing a collection of objects. What might happen if an artist does not observe the scale of objects correctly? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are curating an exhibition of your own still life work. Describe three objects you would choose to include to show contrast in texture and shape. Explain your reasoning for your arrangement and how you would light the scene to create a specific mood. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, create a observational sketch of a piece of fruit placed next to a mug. You must include at least one clear highlight and one cast shadow. (5 marks)



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Evaluate a famous still life painting of your choice. How does the artist use colour theory to create a focal point, and how does the arrangement of objects lead the viewer's eye across the canvas?