

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Expressive World of Vincent van Gogh

Learning objective: To evaluate knowledge of Vincent van Gogh's artistic techniques, use of colour, and emotional expression through his post-impressionist style.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of art history and technique to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses specific art vocabulary.

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch post-impressionist painter who is famous for his bold, dramatic brushwork and intense use of colour. Unlike artists who aimed to paint realistic portraits, Van Gogh used his art to convey his internal feelings and observations of the world. He often applied paint thickly to the canvas using a technique called impasto, which gave his works a three-dimensional, tactile quality. By selecting specific colours, he aimed to provoke an emotional response in the viewer, rather than simply mimicking the exact shades found in nature.

Word bank: Impasto · Complementary · Vibrant · Expressionism · Brushwork · Texture · Palette · Emotion

1. Define the term 'impasto' and explain how this technique changes the surface of a painting. (2 marks)

2. Identify one pair of complementary colours often used by Van Gogh. Explain why an artist might choose to use these colours side-by-side in a composition. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast Van Gogh's approach to painting with a traditional landscape artist who prioritises realism. Consider the purpose of the artwork in your answer. (4 marks)

4. Explain why Van Gogh's brushwork is described as 'expressive'. How does the direction and speed of a brushstroke influence the mood of a scene? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If Van Gogh were to paint a calm, quiet garden, which colours and brushstroke styles would he likely avoid, and why? (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: 'Van Gogh's work is not a window into the world, but a mirror of his mind.' Evaluate this statement. Refer to his specific use of colour, texture, and subject matter to support your argument. (5 marks)

7. If you were to curate an exhibition of Van Gogh's work, what title would you give it and why? (2 marks for title, 1 mark for justification). (3 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, sketch a section of a landscape in the style of Van Gogh. Focus on using different types of 'mark-making' (dashes, swirls, dots, and thick lines) to represent the movement of the wind or the texture of the earth.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Creative Challenge: Design a 'Van Gogh inspired' colour palette for a modern scene (e.g., a busy high street or a local park). List the colours you would choose and explain the emotion you want the viewer to feel when they look at your interpretation.