

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Wonders of Watercolour

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of watercolour techniques, colour theory, and the application of artistic processes.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of watercolour properties to provide detailed, accurate responses. Ensure your answers reflect an understanding of both practical application and artistic terminology.

Zara the zebra has been experimenting with watercolours to capture the patterns of the savannah. She notes that unlike opaque poster paint, watercolours rely on the paper's white surface showing through the layers. By adjusting the ratio of water to pigment, Zara can create varying levels of intensity, from soft, translucent washes to deep, concentrated marks. She must also decide whether to apply her brush to damp paper or dry paper to achieve the desired effect.

Word bank: Wash · Transparency · Pigment · Dilution · Blending · Wet-on-wet · Wet-on-dry · Gradient · Opacity · Saturation

1. Explain the difference between 'wet-on-wet' and 'wet-on-dry' techniques. How does each affect the edges of the paint on the paper? (2 marks)

2. If Zara wants to create a very pale, soft background wash, how should she adjust her mixture of paint and water? Justify your answer using the term 'pigment'. (3 marks)

3. Why is it important to control the amount of water on the brush when working with watercolour paper? What might happen to the paper if it becomes oversaturated? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast watercolour paint with an opaque medium like acrylic. Why does 'transparency' matter when layering colours? (4 marks)

5. Zara is selling prints of her artwork. If one small print costs £4.50 and a large print costs £8.25, calculate the total cost for a customer buying two of each. Show your working out. (4 marks)

6. Extended Response: Evaluate the importance of planning before beginning a watercolour painting. Why is it difficult to make 'corrections' once a dark pigment has been applied to the paper? Refer to the properties of watercolours in your answer. (5 marks)

7. Identify one way an artist can create a 'gradient' effect using only one colour and water. Describe the physical movement of the brush required. (4 marks)

Draw: In the box below, demonstrate a smooth 'gradient' (a wash that fades from dark to light). Use your pencil to label where you would apply the most pigment and where you would apply the most water.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Creative Challenge: Imagine you are teaching a younger student how to mix secondary colours using watercolours. Write a short, step-by-step guide explaining how to achieve a vibrant green without the paint looking 'muddy' or over-mixed.