# Zara’s Artistic Insight: Portrait Analysis Template

*Learning objective: To analyse the artistic techniques used in portraiture, focusing on facial proportions, expression, and the use of colour to convey personality.*

Choose a portrait to study—this could be a self-portrait, a family member, or a historical figure. Use this template to record your observations. Examine how the artist uses lines, shading, and colour to tell a story about the subject. Write in full sentences and use sophisticated vocabulary to describe your findings.

*Word bank: proportion · expression · composition · shading · vibrant · mood · technique · perspective*

**1. Subject Profile: Describe the subject's expression and explain why the artist might have chosen this specific pose. (3 marks)**

**2. Colour Palette: Identify the dominant colours used in the portrait. Justify why these colours were chosen to reflect the subject's personality. (3 marks)**

**3. Structural Observation: Compare and contrast the scale of the facial features. How does the artist ensure the proportions look realistic or intentionally abstract? (4 marks)**

**4. Artistic Technique: Describe the brushwork or pencil strokes. Are they bold and energetic, or smooth and subtle? Explain the impact this has on the viewer. (3 marks)**

**5. Narrative Interpretation: If the subject could speak, what story would they tell based on the atmosphere created by the artist? (3 marks)**

**6. Critical Reflection: What might happen to the overall mood of the portrait if the artist had chosen to change the lighting or background colour? Justify your answer. (4 marks)**

*Extension challenge: Design your own portrait of a person who inspires you. Incorporate 'hidden' symbols in the background that represent their hobbies or achievements, similar to how historical artists used iconography to tell a story without words.*