Zara’s Portrait Masterclass: A Year 5 Art Quiz

Learning objective: To understand the techniques, proportions, and expression involved in creating a portrait.

Join Zara the zebra on an artistic journey! Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of facial anatomy and artistic style to select or write the best answer. Good luck, budding artists!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Proportion, 4.B, 5.False, 6.D, 7.True, 8.Shading, 9.B, 10.A. Extension guidance: Encourage students to justify their stylistic choices, focusing on how different mark-making techniques convey personality and emotion in their portraits.

Word bank: Proportion · Expression · Composition · Feature · Shading · Contrast · Perspective · Medium

1. 1. When drawing a face, where are the eyes usually positioned in relation to the vertical centre of the head? A) At the very top B) At the chin C) Halfway down the head* D) At the bottom (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A self-portrait is a painting, drawing, or photograph of the artist created by the artist themselves. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the term for the size and placement of facial features in relation to one another? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these elements is most important for showing emotion in a portrait? A) The background B) The expression of the mouth and eyebrows* C) The type of paper used D) The colour of the frame (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Portraits must always be hyper-realistic and look exactly like a photograph. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which technique involves using light and dark tones to create a 3D effect? A) Blending B) Hatching C) Cross-hatching D) All of the above* (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: An artist can use 'composition' to decide where to place the subject within the frame. (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the name for the technique of creating shadows to give a face depth and volume? (1 mark)

9. 9. If you wanted to make a portrait look 'dramatic', which would you choose? A) Bright, flat lighting B) High contrast between light and dark areas* C) Using only one pastel colour D) Drawing with a very thin pencil (1 mark)

10. 10. In a portrait, 'profile' view means: A) Looking from the side* B) Looking straight ahead C) Looking over the shoulder D) Looking from above (1 mark)

Draw: Using Zara’s love for patterns, draw a portrait of a friend or family member. Instead of using traditional shading, use different types of patterns (dots, stripes, zig-zags) to show where the shadows fall on the face.

Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use non-naturalistic colours for a portrait. 2. Compare and contrast a portrait drawn in pencil versus one painted with watercolours. 3. Justify your choice of expression for your drawing prompt; why did you choose that specific emotion? 4. What might happen if the eyes were drawn too high on the head? 5. How does the background of a portrait change the way we feel about the person being painted? 6. Imagine you are commissioning a portrait for £50; write a brief design brief explaining the mood, lighting, and composition you would request.