Year 5 Art Assessment: The Power of the Portrait

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of portraiture techniques, facial proportions, and the use of art to convey personality and mood.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of proportions, mark-making, and artistic expression to answer. Ensure your answers are clear and use subject-specific vocabulary.

A portrait is more than just a picture of a face. Artists like Zara often use line, colour, and light to tell us something about the person being drawn. By looking at the spacing of the eyes, the shape of the jaw, and the way light hits the nose, an artist can create a realistic likeness. Beyond realism, the way a person is positioned or the expression they wear can show us if they are feeling brave, shy, curious, or kind.

Word bank: proportions · expression · shading · texture · composition · feature · symmetry · mood · tone · perspective

1. When drawing a human face, where should the eyes be positioned in relation to the vertical centre of the head? Explain why this is important for realism. (2 marks)

2. Name two types of mark-making techniques an artist might use to create texture in a portrait (for example, when drawing hair or skin). (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between a 'frontal' portrait and a 'profile' portrait. (2 marks)

4. How can an artist use light and shadow (tone) to make a portrait look three-dimensional rather than flat? (4 marks)

5. Choose a personality trait (e.g., bravery, curiosity, or kindness). How could you use colour and brushstrokes to communicate this trait in a portrait, even if the person isn't smiling? (5 marks)

6. If you were commissioned to paint a portrait of Leo the Lion, why might you choose a 'low angle' composition to show his leadership qualities? Refer to the idea of perspective in your answer. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space provided, draw a self-portrait or a portrait of a friend. You must demonstrate at least three facial proportions (e.g., eyes halfway down the head, ears aligned with the nose and eyes, or the width of the head being five eyes wide).

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Write a short paragraph describing how you have used 'mood' in your portrait. What specific colours or lines did you choose to make the viewer feel a certain way about the subject?