Zara's Creative Collage Challenge

1. A collage is a piece of art made by sticking different materials like paper, fabric, or natural objects onto a flat surface. (2 marks)

Working: Definition of collage technique.

Award 1 mark for mentioning sticking/gluing things down, and 1 mark for mentioning using different materials.

2. Zara could use rough bark and smooth pebbles (or just bark). (2 marks)

Working: Identifying textures from the text.

1 mark for each correct material identified from the text (bark, pebbles).

3. An artist overlaps paper to create layers, which makes the artwork look more interesting or gives it depth. (3 marks)

Look for: Mentioning depth, layers, or making the art look 3D.

Good: To make it look nice.

Better: To make layers so it looks like it has depth.

Best: To create layers that overlap, which adds depth and makes the collage look more interesting.

What moves an answer up: Moving from vague descriptions to specific art terminology like 'depth' and 'layers'.

4. Shiny foil and felt. Foil is smooth and reflective, while felt is soft and fuzzy. (4 marks)

Look for: Identification of two contrasting items and a description of their physical feel.

Good: Foil and felt because they feel different.

Better: Foil and felt. Foil is shiny and smooth, but felt is soft and fuzzy.

Best: Shiny foil and felt. Foil is hard and smooth, whereas felt is soft and fuzzy, creating a strong contrast in texture.

What moves an answer up: Moving from identifying the items to explaining the specific sensory difference.

5. I would use dry twigs or pine needles for the spikes because they are sharp. I would use brown felt for the face because it is soft. (4 marks)

Look for: Logical choice of materials based on the physical properties of a hedgehog.

Good: I would use sticks for spikes and paper for the face.

Better: I would use sharp twigs for the spikes to make them look real, and soft brown felt for the face.

Best: I would use sharp, broken twigs for the spikes to show texture, and soft brown felt for the face to show the difference between fur and spines.

What moves an answer up: Moving from simple material choice to explaining the artistic intent behind the choice.

6. Plan: Draw a city street. Labels: Silver foil for puddles, blue tissue paper for rain, grey card for the pavement. (5 marks)

Working: Application of knowledge to a design task.

1 mark for drawing, 4 marks for labelling 4 appropriate materials for the scene.

7. Changing the background colour changes the mood. For example, a dark blue background makes a night scene feel quiet or cold. (5 marks)

Look for: Linking background colour to a specific emotional response or atmosphere.

Good: It makes it look different.

Better: It changes the mood, like using black for a night scene.

Best: It changes the mood of the art. For example, a bright yellow background feels happy and sunny, but a dark blue one feels like night-time.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a general statement to providing a clear, descriptive example.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that collage is about layering materials to create texture. Students should be able to link material properties (smooth, rough, soft) to their artistic choices.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to touch different objects in the room, like a table or a jumper, and describe how they feel. Use these words to help them choose materials for their art.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often think collage is just drawing with paper, forgetting that the physical 'texture' of the materials is the most important part. They may also struggle to explain 'why' they chose a material beyond 'it looks nice'.