Exploring Perspectives: The Art of Pablo Picasso

1. The Blue Period and the Rose Period. (2 marks)

Working: Evidence found in the text: 'moving through different 'periods' like the Blue Period and the Rose Period'.

1 mark for each period identified.

2. Cubism. (1 mark)

Working: Evidence found in the text: 'He is best known for being a co-founder of Cubism.'

1 mark for the correct term.

3. Picasso broke subjects into geometric shapes because he wanted to show objects from several viewpoints at once, rather than painting them exactly as they looked. (3 marks)

Look for: The connection between geometric shapes and the desire to show multiple viewpoints.

Good: He used shapes to make the art look different.

Better: He used geometric shapes because he wanted to show objects from several viewpoints at once.

Best: Picasso used geometric shapes like cubes and cones because he wanted to show objects from several viewpoints at once, instead of painting them exactly as they appeared in real life.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer includes specific examples of shapes and contrasts his method with traditional painting.

4. Zara might draw the face using fragmented shapes. She could show the nose from the side while the eyes are looking forward, using triangles and rectangles to build the features. (4 marks)

Look for: Application of Cubist principles (multiple viewpoints, geometric shapes) to a human face.

Good: She would draw the face using lots of triangles and squares.

Better: She would use geometric shapes to draw the face and show different parts of the face from different angles at the same time.

Best: Zara would break the face into geometric shapes, perhaps showing the nose in profile while the eyes face forward, creating a fragmented view that captures multiple perspectives at once.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer explains the 'why' behind the technique, not just the 'what'.

5. Traditional portraits aim for realism, showing an object exactly as it looks from one angle. Cubism is different because it uses geometric shapes and shows multiple viewpoints simultaneously. (4 marks)

Look for: Comparison of realism/single viewpoint vs. abstraction/multiple viewpoints.

Good: Traditional art looks real, but Picasso's art looks like shapes.

Better: Traditional art tries to paint objects exactly as they look, while Picasso's Cubism breaks objects into geometric shapes to show many viewpoints at once.

Best: Traditional 19th-century portraits focus on realistic representation from a single perspective. In contrast, Cubism rejects this, using geometric abstraction to display multiple viewpoints of a subject on one flat surface.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer uses precise vocabulary like 'abstraction' and 'representation'.

6. A student's paragraph should describe the visual impact of the shapes and colours, and provide a personal opinion. For example: 'The painting uses bold, clashing colours that make the image feel energetic. The sharp, geometric shapes create a complex composition that forces the viewer to look closely to find the hidden features. I think this style is exciting because it is so different from a photograph.' (5 marks)

Look for: Mention of colours, shapes/composition, and a clear personal opinion.

Good: The painting has bright colours and lots of shapes. I like it because it is interesting to look at.

Better: The colours are very bold and the shapes make the painting look busy. I think the style is clever because it shows so much detail from different angles.

Best: The use of contrasting colours creates a vibrant energy, while the fragmented geometric shapes build a complex composition. I find this style fascinating because it challenges the viewer to piece together the subject,

making it feel like a visual puzzle.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer uses descriptive language and explains the effect on the viewer.

7. £5,850.00 (6 marks)

Working: 45 x 130 = 5,850. (45 x 100 = 4,500; 45 x 30 = 1,350; 4,500 + 1,350 = 5,850).

Award 6 marks for the correct total with currency symbol. Award 4 marks for correct calculation without currency. Award 2 marks for correct method with a minor arithmetic error.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that Cubism is a deliberate choice to show multiple perspectives rather than a lack of skill. Ensure students use the provided word bank in their explanations.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to imagine they are looking at a cereal box from the top, the side, and the front all at the same time. How would they draw that on a flat piece of paper?

Common mistakes to watch for

Students often think Cubism is just 'messy' drawing, rather than a structured attempt to show multiple viewpoints. Remind them that Picasso was a highly skilled traditional painter before he developed this style.