Sculpting Stories: Shapes in Three Dimensions

1. Subtractive. This technique involves taking away material from a larger block to reveal the form inside. (2 marks)

Working: Definition of subtractive sculpture.

1 mark for the correct term 'Subtractive', 1 mark for the correct definition.

2. Armature. (1 mark)

Working: N/A

1 mark for the correct term.

3. Assemblage. (1 mark)

Working: N/A

1 mark for the correct term.

4. A free-standing sculpture can be viewed from all sides, whereas a relief sculpture is attached to a background surface and is only viewed from the front. (2 marks)

Look for: The distinction between 360-degree viewing and surface-attached viewing.

Good: Free-standing sculptures stand up on their own, but relief sculptures are stuck to a wall.

Better: A free-standing sculpture can be walked around and seen from all sides, while a relief sculpture is attached to a flat background.

Best: Free-standing sculptures are three-dimensional objects that can be viewed from every angle, whereas relief sculptures are carved or built onto a surface, meaning they are only intended to be viewed from the front.

What moves an answer up: Moving from 'good' to 'best' requires using precise vocabulary like 'three-dimensional' and explaining the viewing perspective clearly.

5. 3.8kg remains. (2 marks)

Working: 5.0kg - 1.2kg = 3.8kg

1 mark for the correct calculation, 1 mark for the correct final answer with units.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding of the difference between additive and subtractive processes and correctly identifies technical terms like armature and assemblage.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to imagine they are holding a block of soap; if they cut pieces off, are they adding or subtracting? If they are building a model with sticks and glue, are they assembling?

Common mistakes to watch for

Confusing 'Assemblage' with 'Additive' (both involve adding, but assemblage specifically uses found objects) and forgetting to include units (kg) in the maths calculation.