Zara’s Sketching Safari

1. B) Graphite pencil (1 mark)

Working: Graphite is the material used in pencils that can be easily erased, unlike pens or markers.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

2. False (1 mark)

Working: Pressing hard makes marks permanent and difficult to change.

Award 1 mark for the correct answer.

3. Graphite (1 mark)

Working: The core of a pencil is made of graphite mixed with clay.

Award 1 mark for the correct term.

4. B) Capturing a quick idea or shape (1 mark)

Working: The passage defines a sketch as a quick, rough drawing to capture ideas.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

5. A) Adding more layers or 'hatching' (1 mark)

Working: Layering marks or using hatching techniques increases the density of graphite on the page.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

6. True (1 mark)

Working: Sketching allows an artist to map out shapes before adding final details.

Award 1 mark for the correct answer.

7. B) Varied line marks like dots or dashes (1 mark)

Working: Different mark-making techniques create the illusion of texture.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

8. C) Use a rubber to gently lift the mark (1 mark)

Working: A rubber is the standard tool for correcting graphite marks.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

9. False (1 mark)

Working: Sketching is meant to be fluid and rough, not rigid or ruler-dependent.

Award 1 mark for the correct answer.

10. Using a light touch is important because it makes it easier to rub out mistakes and allows you to build up darker lines later. (1 mark)

Look for: The answer must mention ease of erasing or the ability to layer/refine lines.

Good: It is important because it is easier to rub out if you make a mistake.

Better: You should use a light touch so you can erase mistakes easily and add darker details later.

Best: Using a light touch is vital because faint lines are simple to erase, whereas heavy pressure leaves dark, permanent marks that are hard to fix.

What moves an answer up: Moving from good to best involves explaining both the benefit of erasing and the benefit of layering/refining.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that sketching is a flexible, iterative process rather than a single, perfect action. Pupils should recognise that light pressure is a tool for control.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to draw a circle very hard, then try to rub it out. Then, ask them to draw one very lightly and rub it out. Ask them which one was easier to fix.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often believe that 'good' art must be dark and bold from the start, or that mistakes are permanent and mean they must start over.