



GCSE Art Annotation Guide

Writing about your work and the work of other artists is an important part of your GCSE. Use this guide to help you get used to the terminology. Don't be afraid to use your own thoughts and opinions.

When talking about a piece of art work, it helps to break it down into the **formal elements**.

Line, Tone, Form, Colour, Pattern, Composition, Mood, Media.

The following sentences are examples of what you might like to write about your artwork.

Line

Mark-making: I have experimented with different types of mark-making techniques that explore line through different qualities of line. I used a to achieve different effects.

Experimental line drawings: I have produced some drawings of Using different types of line. These were

Observational drawings: From first hand observation of a I drew out the object only using different types of line. Thicker, bolder lines make the objects look closer. Thinner, wisper lines make the object look further away.

Having researched the artist Picasso, his paintings are made up of fragmented shapes and objects and overlapping lines. I produced my own version of this style by

Having looked at Picasso's work where he uses geometric shapes to divide the canvas, I have produced my own version by

I have researched the artist because of his use of mark-making in paint. He uses a variety of different thickness and quality of lines and marks to create layers of paint. I thought his work was

Tone

Black and white tonal work: I explored different tonal properties of one type of material by producing tones of dark to light.

Shades in paint: Using one colour in paint, I mixed different shades of that colour, looking at the darkest shade to the lightest. I achieved this by adding white to make it lighter and the opposite colour to make it darker.

Observational drawing: I drew a still life from observation and recorded the light, medium and dark tones using a pencil. I Carefully shaded the objects adding shadows and highlights to make them look 3d.

Low relief collage: I created my Picasso inspired collage using monochromatic tones.

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Form

Observational drawing:

Geometric forms: the cubists used geometric shapes to fragment objects in their work.

Colour

Colour wheel: The colour wheel shows primary, secondary and tertiary colours.

Complementary colours and Tertiary colours: These are

Collage: I used a range of different textured materials to add interest to my collage.

The colours in this piece of work can be described as.....

Pattern

Different types of pattern: Using photos and magazine cuttings using a range of different types of pattern.

Collage of pattern: Wallpaper, fabric showing pattern.

Gustave Klimt: Klimt's work is distinguished by the elegant gold or coloured decoration. He uses swirls and shapes to create pattern as part of the painting.

William Morris is known for his wallpaper designs and patterned fabrics that are decorative and floral. His work is.....

Cultural Patterns: I researched a range of patterns from different cultures. The one I liked best was from..... This was because..... The type of patterns used are.....

Print: Using a motif I have shown how it can be turned into a block repeat or half drop repeat using a poly print.

Texture

Different materials showing texture: These fabrics show a range of different textures from smooth to rough. Some of these are man made and others are natural.

Collage of texture using magazine cuttings and photos.

Rubbings of texture: Using various surfaces I have taken a range of rubbings using wax crayon. The most successful one was..... This is because.....

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Using different materials to create texture shown in a variety of ways, I have produced my own version of a textured sample by

Andy Goldsworthy: Using natural sources, Goldsworthy produces successful sculptures in their natural environment. I have responded by producing

Culture

I have looked at different cultures to see the difference in technique and style of art. I have found that

Rearrangement

I have used a variety of my drawings from observation and combined them together to produce a new composition.

I have looked at a variety of tonal scales to achieve a different design.

Writing about your work and the work of other artists is an important part of your GCSE. Use this guide to help you get used to the terminology or 'art words'. Don't be afraid to use your own thoughts and opinions. Get into the habit of annotating every piece of work you do in your sketchbook.

When writing about your own work, ask yourself the following questions:

What have I done? Is it a painting a drawing or a sculpture? Your own design or a copy?

How have I done it? Try to describe how you built up your work stage by stage.

Why have I done it/ what have I learnt through doing it? About an artist? New skills?

What medium or materials have I used? Paint, pencil, collage, mixed media etc

What have I done well? Try to list at least 3 points.

What could I improve or what would I change if I were to do it again?

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Is my work similar to an artist's work? Which one? How?

If you write about every piece of work you do by answering these simple questions you can achieve a C. Add as much of your own personal opinion to achieve even higher grades!

Possible ways to start your sentences:

In this piece I have.....

I have used the following materials.....

Through working in this way I have learnt how to.....

This piece contains the following characteristics.....

Here I have shown..... In the style of.....

This piece could have been improved by including.....

I could have made greater use of.....

In this piece I have used too much/ not enough

The artist..... has influenced my design.

I was inspired by When creating this piece of work.

To improve this piece I could have.....

Word Bank

Paint Poster Water colours Oils Acrylic Colour wash Dry brush marks
Brush strokes sponging technique

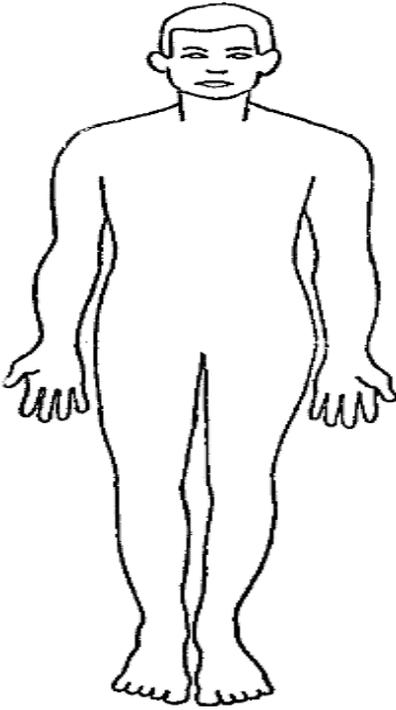
Pencil Graphite soft hard tone tonal range dark medium light shadows
highlights blending in shading contrast

Composition busy calm bold geometric organic surface grid flowing canvas
paper wood

Collage mixed media, papier mache, layers, paste, texture low relief,
transparent

Handy Hint Sheet

SHAPE: The outline or form of something.

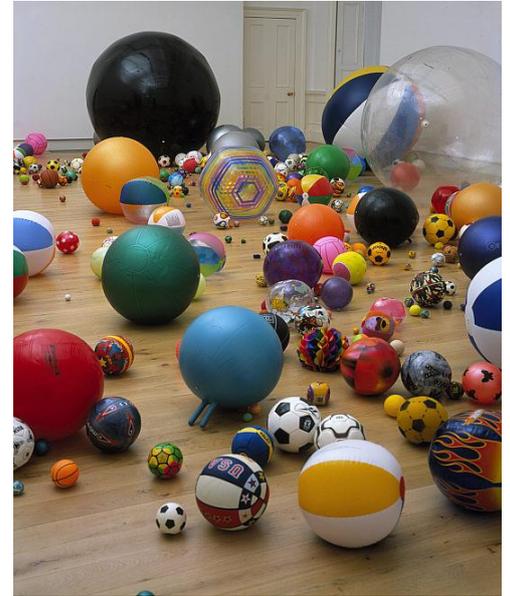


FORM

The solid 3D Shape.



Antony Gormley, Angel of the North 1998



Martin Creed, 370 Balls, 2004

TONE

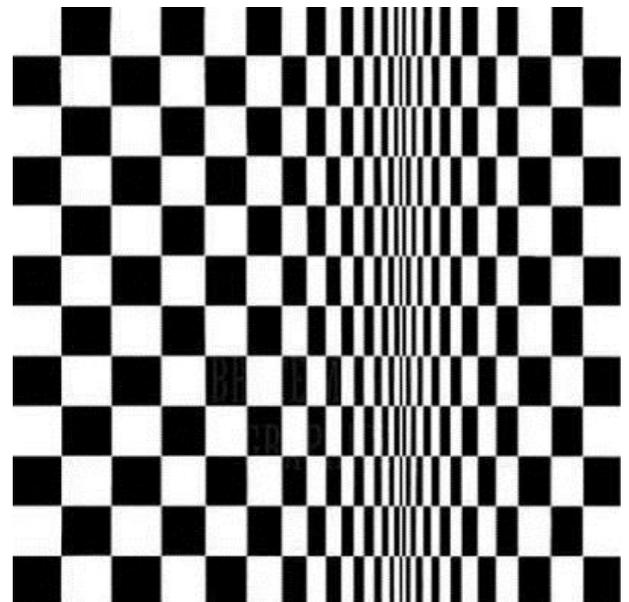
Different degrees of lightness and darkness, making objects appear more 3D and solid.



Lisa-Marie Pelosi, Dan, 2007

PATTERN

When a shape, image, colour or lines are Repeated or gathered together.



Movement in Squares
Bridget Riley
1961

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY FOR ART

What is your opinion of the painting?
Why?
Evaluation

What ways would you render the subject differently?
Synthesis

Explain what you think the artist is trying to
say about the subject matter.
Analysis

If you could interview the artist, what
questions would you ask?
Application

What is the subject or theme?
Understanding

Describe the painting.
Knowledge

Looking at Art: Seeing Questions

When looking at a work of art, students might be asked to:

Describe it.

What kinds of things do you see in this painting? What else do you see?

What words would you use to describe this painting? What other words might we use?

How would you describe the lines in this picture? The shapes? The colors? What does this painting show?

Look at this painting for a moment. What observations can you make about it?

How would you describe this painting to a person who could not see it?

How would you describe the people in this picture? Are they like you or different?

How would you describe (the place depicted in) this painting?

Relate it.

What does this painting remind you of?

What things do you recognize in this painting? What things seem new to you?

How is this painting like the one we just saw? What are some important differences?

What do these two paintings have in common?

How is this picture different from real life?

What interests you most about this work of art?

Analyze it.

Which objects seems closer to you? Further away?

What can you tell me about the colors in this painting?

What color is used the most in this painting?

What makes this painting look crowded?

What can you tell me about the person in this painting?

What can you tell me about how this person lived? How did you arrive at that idea?

What do you think is the most important part of this picture?

How do you think the artist made this work?

What questions would you ask the artist about this work, if s/he were here?

Interpret it.

What title would you give to this painting? What made you decide on that title?

What other titles could we give it?

What do you think is happening in this painting? What else could be happening?

What sounds would this painting make (if it could)?

What do you think is going on in this picture? How did you arrive at that idea?

What do you think this painting is about? How did you come up that idea?

Pretend you are inside this painting. What does it feel like?

What do you think this (object) was used for? How did you arrive at that idea?

Why do you suppose the artist made this painting? What makes you think that?

What do you think it would be like to live in this painting? What makes you think that?

Evaluate it.

What do you think is good about this painting? What is not so good?

Do you think the person who painted this do a good or bad job? What makes you think so?

Why do you think other people should see this work of art?

What do you think other people would say about this work? Why do you think that?

What grade would you give the artist for this work? How did you arrive at that grade?

What would you do with this work if you owned it?

What do you think is worth remembering about this painting?