

How to Analyse Artists' work:

Artists' research and analysis is worth 25% of marks at GCSE, A/S & A Level

When writing about artists' work you should comment on the following.

1. What media is the artwork and what is the subject matter??
2. Who is the artist? Give relevant information if it belongs to a particular movement, style or tradition.
3. What materials and techniques has the artist used?
4. Describe the style, is it realistic or abstract?
5. Is there a theme it, or does it have a story or message or meaning behind it?
6. What do you think the artwork is about?
7. Does it create a mood or evoke feelings, emotions, or ideas?
8. Is there a purpose or function to the artwork?
9. What was your first impression and how did it capture your attention?
10. Why did you choose it?
11. What do you like or dislike about the work?
12. Give a detailed description of your thoughts about the work in relation to the formal elements – write about the artist's use of colour, texture, pattern, tone, line, shape/form, composition.
13. What is successful about the technical skills used and how can this help you?
14. Overall how will this piece of work inspire you and influence your future work?

Structuring your writing:

Answer the questions above writing in full sentences and using words from the creative vocabulary list.

Sentence starters:

The piece of art that I have chosen to write about is...		The artists who made/ painted it was..
This is a painting / sculpture of...	This piece of artwork is by.....	The artist's work reminds me of...
This type of work is....	The artist has created...	The artist has used...
The artist created this to show...	In my opinion...	It captured my attention because
I particularly like the...	Whilst looking at the work I..	Initially I thought..
The artist has successfully...	In my own work I would like to...	
This will help me with my own work because...		
This will influence my future work by...		