

Writing about an artist and their work

Form

This means looking at the formal elements of an artwork.

- What is the medium of the work?
- What colours does the artist use? Why? How is colour organised?
- What kind of shapes or forms can you find?
- What kind of marks or techniques does the artist use?
- What is the surface like?
- What kinds of textures can you see?
- How big is the work?

Process

Looking at process means studying how the work was made and what techniques were used.

- What materials and tools were used to make the piece?
- What is the evidence for this?
- Do sketchbooks provide any clues as to how the work developed?

Content

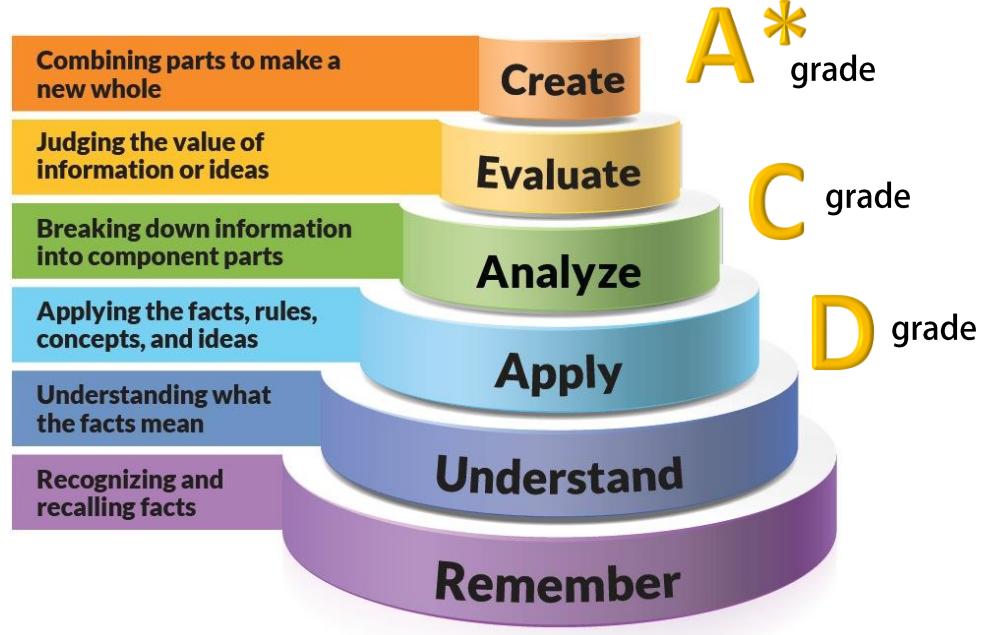
The content is the subject of a piece of work.

- What is it? What is it about? What is happening?
- Is it a portrait? A landscape? Abstract?
- What does the work represent?
- The title - what does the artist call the work?
- Does the title change the way we see the work?
- Is it a realistic depiction?
- Have any parts been exaggerated or distorted? If so, why?
- What is the theme of the work?
- What message does the work communicate?

Mood

Mood means looking at how the artist has created a certain atmosphere or feeling.

- How does the work make you feel?
- Why do you think you feel like this?
- Does the colour, texture, form or theme of the work affect the way you feel about the work? Explain how and why?
- What elements of the way the artist works could you use within your own work? How would this benefit your own work? How could you combine the work of this artist and another artist that you have researched to create a new way of working within your theme?



Connectives	
Compare:	Contrast:
Also	Alternatively
Both	However
Equally	In contrast to
In comparison to	Instead
In the same way	On the other hand
Likewise	Unlike
Similarly	Whereas

Writing your evaluation

An evaluation is a piece of writing where you look at your project as a whole and discuss its successes and weaknesses. This can help others understand what you were trying to achieve. You need to be honest and use appropriate art language. Evaluating your work is really important for getting marks in *Assessment Objective 4*.

Evaluating your preparatory work

When you are evaluating your preparatory work, you should consider:

- What was the theme for the project?
- How have you developed your ideas? How did your work change through the project?
- How much reference material did you find? Do you think you should have done more or less?
- What artists, art movements or cultures have you looked at to help and inspire you?
- What materials, tools and techniques did these artists use?
- How have your skills developed during the project?
- Are there any aspects of your studies that you wish you had explored further?

Evaluating your final piece

You also need to evaluate your final piece. You should reference relevant work from your preparatory studies.

- How have you used formal elements such as line, tone, colour and shape?
- What materials did you use, and why? Did they work successfully?
- What meaning and messages did you want to convey and were you successful?
- Are you happy with your final piece? Are there any elements you like in particular?
- Is there anything you would change? Why?

GCSE Art and Design Specification Key Words

AO1 Develop Ideas (marked out of 20 marks)

Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.

AO1: KEYWORDS:

Develop:

To bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state.

Investigation

A searching inquiry for ascertaining facts; detailed or careful examination.

Contextual

Relating to, or depending on the context. (CONTEXT - the set of circumstances or facts that surround a particular event, situation, etc.)

Analytical

Skilled in using analysis. (ANALYSIS - method of studying the nature of something or of determining its essential features and their relations)

AO2: Refine Ideas (marked out of 20 marks)

Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO2: KEYWORDS:

Refine

To become more fine, elegant, or polished:

Experiment

A test, trial, or tentative procedure; an act or operation for the purpose of discovering something unknown or of testing a principle, supposition, etc.:

Resources

A source of supply, support, or aid, especially one that can be readily drawn upon when needed.

Often used to draw from or to write about art work.

Media

Plural form of medium (the material used to draw with i.e. charcoal, pencil, oil pastel).

Techniques

The manner and ability with which an artist uses the technical skills of a particular art.

AO3: Record Ideas (marked out of 20 marks)

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.

AO3: KEYWORDS:

Personal

Relating to, or coming as from a particular person; individual; private:

Informed

Having or prepared with information or knowledge;

Meaningful

Full of meaning, significance, purpose, or value; purposeful

Critical

inclined to find fault or to judge with severity.

Realising

1. to grasp or understand clearly.
2. to make real

AO4: Present (marked out of 20 marks)

Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral and other elements.

AO3: KEYWORDS:

Observations

An act or instance of noticing or perceiving.

Insights

1. an instance of apprehending the true nature of a thing, especially through intuitive understanding: an insight into 18th-century life.
2. penetrating mental vision or discernment; faculty of seeing into inner character or underlying truth.

Intentions

The end or object intended; purpose.