



Art and Design

Planning a critical studies essay

Your ability to analyse, evaluate, connect and respond to the work of others is essential for success in GCSE Art. Use your answers to the questions below to help you structure an essay about your chosen painting, using subject specific language.

Remember to include:

- The artist's name
- The title of the piece of work
- The date that the piece of work was created

CONTENT

- What kind of art is it/what is the subject matter?
- What can you see?
- What is the most important thing in the painting?
- Is it possible to tell what time of day/year it is?
- Where and when was it made?
- Is it a real event or from the artists imagination?
- Does it tell a story?
- Is it realistic or has it been distorted or exaggerated in some way?
- Are there any hidden meanings? For example does your artist use symbolism?

FORM

- What colours can you see?
- How would you describe the texture of the surface?
- Describe the composition (the arrangement of shapes, colours, etc)
- Is your eye drawn to one particular part of the composition?
- How would you describe the colour scheme?
- How would you describe the light source in the picture?

PROCESS

- What tools and materials do you think that the artist used?
- Do you think that this piece took a long time to produce or was it made rapidly?
- Do you think that it was made on location or in an artist's studio?

MOOD

- Do you like this piece of work?
- How does it make you feel?
- How would you describe the emotions that your artist is trying to convey through this piece?
- Do you feel differently about this piece now after studying it in more detail?