

# Guide to Answering the Higher Question Paper - Expressive

## Questions 1 or 2 (you must answer either question 1 or 2 fully)

The most important thing to understand is exactly what the questions want you to do. Marks are only awarded for a **valid response** to the question. The questions will ask you to do one of two things:

**DESCRIBE:** This is asking you to identify and describe some of the characteristics of the work in question.

**EXPLAIN:** This is asking you to state how aspects of the work relate to each other and the effect of these relationships.

Questions 1 and 2 will relate to an image and will always have a similar format:

With reference to the image above:

(a) Describe the artist's use of .....(1).....and.....(2)..... in this work;

6

(b) Explain how the artist's **combined** use of .....(1)..... and.....(2)..... contributes to the overall .....(3)..... of this work.

4

## HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 1 OR 2:

**Part (a)** is asking you to **DESCRIBE**. 6 marks are available and it will ask you to describe such things as *colour, line, tonal contrast* (or any of the other visual elements), *composition, use/choice of media/technique* etc...

***For example fill in the above blanks with (1)Colour, (2)Choice of Media***

You should try to make valid, descriptive points e.g. "*the paint has been applied thickly, with impasto effects. There are very visible brushstrokes and the artist may have used a hog's hair brush.*"

**Part (b)** is asking you to **EXPLAIN** how the combined use of the elements in part (a) contributes to the overall effect of the work. 4 marks are available and it will be asking you about things like *mood and atmosphere, visual impact, the character of the subject* etc...

***For example fill in the blanks with (1)Colour, (2)Choice of Media, (3)Mood and atmosphere.***

You should try to make valid points that reveal cause and effect or clarify how aspects of the work relate to each other e.g. "*the use of complex colour mixing achieves a large range of flesh tones and this combined with thick almost sculptural brushstrokes apparent on the face creates the frank and honest reflection of Freud's introspective mood.*"

## Questions 3 or 4 (you must answer either question 3 or 4 fully)

The most important thing to understand is exactly what the question wants you to do. Marks are only awarded for a **valid response** to the question.

**DISCUSS:** This is asking you to communicate any information you know and ideas you have about particular artists, groups of artists or art movements you have studied **relevant to the question being asked**.

**EXPLAIN:** This is asking you to state how aspects of the artwork(s) relate to each other and the effect of these relationships.

### HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 3 OR 4:

In this question both parts (a) and (b) are asking you to **DISCUSS** and **EXPLAIN**. This means you should try and communicate any ideas and knowledge that you have about **Freud and/or Picasso artworks**. What this means is that:

**Part (a)** is worth 10 marks and will be asking you to **DISCUSS** particular aspects of the artworks, such as *scale, use of media/techniques, composition* etc... You can reference one or more works by **both Freud and Picasso**, or you can discuss one or more works by a single artist in greater detail.

With reference to any artist(s) you have studied.

- a. Discuss the artists **use of tone** and/or **composition** in any specific artwork(s) **10**

#### **For Example:**

- The **composition** of Freud's 'Reflection, Self-portrait, 1985' **is of his cropped head and shoulders and** suggests the intense scrutiny of the painter's gaze.
- The dramatic **use of tone is evidenced by the strong lighting, casting shadow** across his chest and neck, **illuminating and emphasizing** his face, and focusing attention on Freud's expression.

**Part (b)** is also worth 10 marks and is asking you to **EXPLAIN** social and cultural influences on the artist(s) you have discussed in part (a).

- b. **Explain** the influence of *social, cultural and/or other factors* on the any of the artwork(s) discussed. **10**

#### **For example:** 'Reflection, Self-portrait, 1985'

- *Freud was a refugee from Nazi Germany and came to England in 1933. His uprooting from comfortable middle class life to a new country. As a Jewish immigrant he would always be an outsider and this resulted in lifelong introspection. Evident in this self-portrait, his intense gaze and hunched pose, is a naked portrayal of a disconnected man in his middle age.*
- *While working as a visiting lecturer at The Slade he was introduced to Cremnitz White, a paint so dense as to be sculptural. Freud decided this would be good to paint flesh tones, and used this to create thick textural marks, which helped to express Freud's complex character as displayed in 'Reflection, Self-portrait, 1985'.*