

# ANALYSING AN ART WORK

Answer in sentences so that this information can be written up in essay format.

What is the art work called?

Give the date of the art work?

Who is the artist?

What materials do you think they used, for example oil pastels, chalk pastels, oil paint, acrylic paint, watercolour paint, other medium ?

How has the medium been applied, large strokes, small strokes, big brush/ small brush / palette knife, other method?

Is the medium applied thickly or thinly?

Has the art work been simplified? Does the art work look very detailed, is it distorted in any way, is it abstract?

Describe the mood of the art work - happy, sad calm etc. and say why you think this, what are the indicators?

Describe the art work in detail (give as much detail as you can) this section is very important.

How is the scale used? If there are any objects within the art work, are they represented to the same scale? Is there anything odd about them? What is the overall effect?

Is the art work large or small? What effect on **detail/realism/visual impact** do you think this would have? Do you think the scale of the art work would have an effect on the technique the artist used?

Does the art work have emotion? Are there any shapes which help to create this emotion? Does it succeed in making you feel happy, sad etc.?

## Line

Is there any line used within the art work? If so what effect does it have?

## Shape

Is shape used within the art work? If so what effect does it have?

## **Form**

Has form been used within the art work? If so what effect does it have?

## **Pattern**

Is there any pattern used within the art work? If so what effect does it have?

## **Texture**

Is there any texture used within the art work? If so what effect does it have?

## **Tone**

If tone/shading is used describe how and where it has been applied. Are there strong contrasts between light and dark areas or are they very similar? What effect does it give?

## **Colour**

Describe the colours used in the art work as accurately as you can.

Say where the colours are used e.g. Skin / flesh tones for the face,  
local colour for the bottle etc.

Which is the most important colour? Say why you think that it is important.

Are the colours flat or do they have lots of variations? Are they straight from the tube or mixed up by the artist?

Are the colours mainly warm or cold?

Are the colours realistic?

Are the colours symbolic- do you think that they have an underlying meaning? Red for blood etc.

What effect does the colour have? Write quite a lot if you can.

**Finally - What is your opinion of the art work? Give at least two reasons.**