**Art-Writing frame for a critical study**

**When writing about a piece of art follow the following steps - Description, analysis, interpretation and evaluation.**

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| **Structure** | **What to write** | **Useful starters** | **Useful Vocabulary** | **Adverbs** | |
| **Describe**  **Describe what you see in the painting.** Imagine that you are describing the artwork to someone who cannot see it (someone over the telephone) | Artist’s name  Title of painting  Date of the piece of work (if known)  What is the subject matter of the picture? e.g. landscape(see Vocabulary)  What movement/tradition/culture is it from?  Write down your first impression of the piece of work. This might change once you understand more about it.  What do you think the picture is about? Beauty? Nature? Emotions? Power? Prestige? History? Money? Faith? | The piece of art I have chosen to write about is called.............  It was completed by……………. in …………….  It comes from the movement/culture of... (eg. Surrealism, impressionism)  I think the work portrays …...........  In the picture/piece of artwork I can see......  I think the artist is trying to say that... | **Subject matter**: landscape, still-life, figures, portrait, fantasy, abstract, impressionist, pattern, religious, seascape, surreal, symbolic  suggests, conveys, conjures up, recalls, recreates, when looked at closely, from a distance | Adverbs typically answer questions such as *how?*, *in what way?*, *when?*, *where?*, and *to what extent?*. Use the list here throughout your work so your work is interesting to read | |
| **Analyse**  **Start to describe in detail what you see in the picture.**  Try to write about how the artist has achieved certain effects. Use the art vocabulary for highest marks.  Look at how the elements of art are used  **Analyse** (continued) | What is in the foreground, middle-ground and background?  What medium has the artist used? (see vocabulary in last column)  Why have they chosen this material?  How and where has line been used (if at all)?  What do you think the texture is like?  What types of brushstrokes/marks or techniques have been used  What pattern has been used (if any)?  What shapes/form have been used?  How and where has the artist shown light and dark tones?  How and where have they used colour?  What are the main colours used? | In the foreground/middle-ground, background there is....  The focal point is......  The piece is painted/drawn/constructed from....  This piece is made out of...  The technique of ......has been used.  The artist may have used......to/because.....  The lines used in the piece are......  The texture appears to be ....  Therefore the piece looks.......  The marks/textures/brushstrokes that have been used are...  The patterns are.....  They create an .......... effect  The shapes/form in the work.....  The tone in the painting/piece is.....  Colours are....  The use of colours make the work look/make me feel...... | Foreground, background, middle-ground, arrangement, composition, focal point. Eye line, proportion, scale  **Media:** Oil paint, Chalk, Pencil, Watercolour, Acrylic paint, drawing printmaking, sculpture, wash, impasto, scraffito, glaze, digital media, collage,  **Lines:** fluent, confident, rough, bold, powerful, geometric, light, free, flowing, scribble, broken, rounded, angular, delicate, Strong, Smooth, heavy, obvious, exaggerated, small, large, curved, Cross-hatching,  **Texture/pattern**: Thick, soft, coarse, fine, smooth, shiny, rough, jiggered, splatter, flat, matt, simple, symmetric, repeat, uniform, stencil  **Shape/form**: sculpted, sharp, uniform, repeat, symmetric, angular, geometric  **Tone**: Bright, Dark, faded, smooth, Harsh, contrasting, intense, sombre, strong, powerful, grey, gradation, haze, shadow, highlight  **Colours:** Soft, subtle, pastel, tonal, bright, pure, bold, murky, radiant, contrasting, harmonious, warm, cold, dull, gloomy, vibrant, vivid, intense, | So  so that to in order to because since  Also  Besides  Comparatively Consequently | |
| **Interpret**  **Your reaction**  Try to figure out what the artwork is about. All artworks are about something. Some are colour, subject matter, social or cultural issues. Some are not as easy to see what the artist was thinking. | What is the theme or subject of the work.  What mood or emotions does it communicate  What is the work about, what do you think it means  Why do you think the artist created it | I think the story behind this piece is....  I think the artist wanted us to feel/think.....  I think the artist is trying to say that....  The piece of work makes me think of......  The work makes me ………. because ………………. | see, feel, think, imagine, suggests, evokes, conveys, conjure up, recreates, observes, reflects, recalls, reminds me of,  Happy, sad, sombre, alive, atmospheric, depressing, disturbing, exciting, expressive, fresh, humorous, imposing, nostalgic | Further  Elsewhere  However  In addition  In comparison  In contrast  Instead  Next  Rather  Similar  Then  Therefore |
| **Evaluate/**  **Conclusion**  Come to a conclusion about the artwork based on what you have found out and your interpretations, | Have your thoughts or feelings about the art work changed? How and why?  What do you think/feel about the picture?  Why do you like it or dislike it?  How could the artist have improved or made it different?  What have you learned from the piece of work that you might apply to your own | I chose to write about this piece of work because.....  I like/dislike this work because……  What works in this piece is...  I have been inspired by this piece of work to |  |  |