Your notes

GCSE Art and Design: revision notes

Researching artists and sources

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Why study artists

- Researching artists, designers and craftspeople (**contextual sources**) develops your ideas and meets AO1.
- Good research doesn't just copy: it analyses how and why the work was made, then uses those ideas in your own work.

Analysing an artwork

- A useful framework is content, form, process and mood.
- Content: what is it, and what is it about? Form: how are the formal elements (colour, line, tone, composition) used? Process: what materials and techniques were used, and how? Mood: how does it make you feel, and why?
- Context: when, where and why was it made? What was happening at the time?
- Give your own opinion, backed up with reasons, using art vocabulary.

Examples of artists students often study

- Vincent van Gogh used thick paint (**impasto**) and expressive brushstrokes and colour.
- Claude Monet (**Impressionism**) painted changing light with quick, broken brushstrokes. Pierre-Auguste Renoir, another Impressionist, painted the bays at Moulin Huet during a visit to Guernsey in 1883.
- Pablo Picasso co-founded **Cubism**, showing objects from several viewpoints at once.
- Andy Warhol (**Pop Art**) used screen printing and repetition of everyday and celebrity images.
- Frida Kahlo painted vivid self-portraits about identity and pain. Georgia O'Keeffe painted huge close-ups of flowers.

Using research well

- Make studies of the artist's work in the same technique, then apply the technique to your own subject.
- Present research with images, your own studies and annotation that shows understanding, not just facts copied from the internet.

Key terms

Contextual source	An artist, designer or other source that informs your work.
Impasto	Paint applied thickly so brushstrokes show.
Impressionism	A movement that captured light and moments with quick, broken brushstrokes.
Cubism	A movement showing objects from several viewpoints at once.
Pop Art	A movement using images from popular culture and advertising.
Artist study	A copy or response made to understand an artist's methods.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What does a good artist study do?
2. What are the four parts of the content, form, process, mood framework?
3. Which technique is Van Gogh known for?
4. Which movement is Picasso linked to?
5. Which artist is famous for Pop Art screen prints?
6. What were the Impressionists interested in?
7. Which Impressionist painted at Moulin Huet in Guernsey?
8. What does context mean when studying an artwork?

Answers

1. Analyses how and why the work was made and uses the ideas
2. What it is, how elements are used, how it was made, and how it makes you feel
3. Thick paint (impasto) and expressive brushstrokes
4. Cubism
5. Andy Warhol
6. Capturing light and moments
7. Pierre-Auguste Renoir
8. When, where and why it was made

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Your notes

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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