

Exercise walk-through

6.4

Demonstrating Drawing Skills

AP Drawing

The six drawing skills the rubric names

mark-making

line

surface

space

light and shade

composition

Audit your portfolio against all six – every one should appear **strongly somewhere**. One work can carry several: a figure in a lit interior shows **space, light and shade, and composition** at once.

Making the skills visible

A skill **only counts** if it is **visible** in the **submitted image** – photograph well, or the skill **disappears**.

“Good” portfolios show **competent** skills; a 5 shows **advanced** skills with **visual evidence** everywhere.

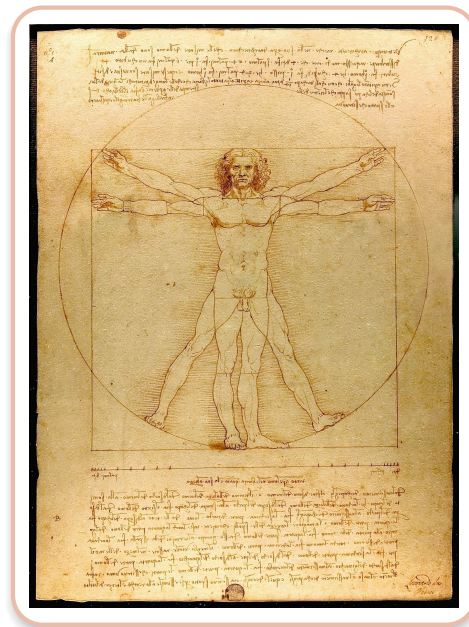
Audit at mid-year, not in April – the gaps you find **write your practice plan** while there is still time.

In written evidence, name skills with the **CED's own words**, so the scorer connects claim to image instantly.

Composition and craft

Craft means **physical care**: clean margins, controlled smudging, flat paper. Composition applies the principles to organise the picture plane.

Craft should **serve the idea** – sometimes a rough handling is the **right** choice.



Vitruvian Man: proportion and composition as craft

Finished works are judged as made objects

the three

composition designed, edges considered, surface controlled

plan first

thumbnail sketches and notan before committing – composition is decided **before the first real mark**

scale

is a decision

an intimate A5 and a commanding A1 are **different statements** of the same idea

protect the work

damaged or dirty drawings photograph badly – cover sheets and fixative

unresolved corners

betray hurry. Finish them, *or* leave them raw on purpose and let the writing own the choice

Craft is not fussiness: an expressive charcoal can be **perfectly crafted expression**. The question is whether the roughness was chosen.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Which is one of the six named drawing skills?

[1]

☐

A colour theory

B light and shade

C framing

D gilding

2.2 Why can one drawing demonstrate several skills at once?

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Which is one of the six named drawing skills?

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☐

- A colour theory
- B light and shade
- C framing
- D gilding

2.1 B

- the six are mark-making, line, surface, space, light and shade, composition

2.2 Why can one drawing demonstrate several skills at once?

[2]

2.2

- e.g. a lit interior figure shows space, light and shade, and composition together; skills overlap in a rich image

Exercise 2.3

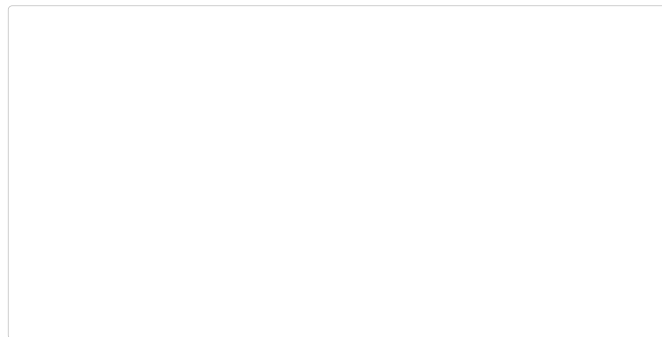
2.3 Why should you only claim skills the picture clearly shows? [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **skills-audit sheet** for your own portfolio.

(a) List the six skills and, for each, name a work that shows it strongly. [3]

(b) Mark the weakest skill and plan one practice task to fix it. [2]



3.2

() Take one drawing and write a caption naming the two skills it best proves. [2]

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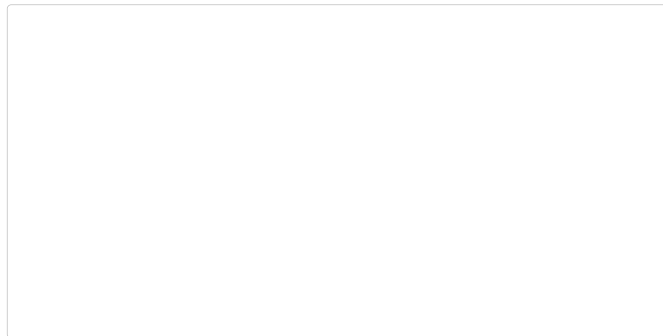
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- a claim the scorer cannot find makes them trust the rest of your writing less

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- all six skills listed; a real work matched to each; an honest weakest-skill identified; a

Full solution 2.3

2.3

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3.1

- all six skills listed; a real work matched to each; an honest weakest-skill identified; a concrete practice plan

3.2

- two skills named in CED words; both genuinely visible in the drawing