

Exercise walk-through

6.5

Composition and Craft in Making

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.

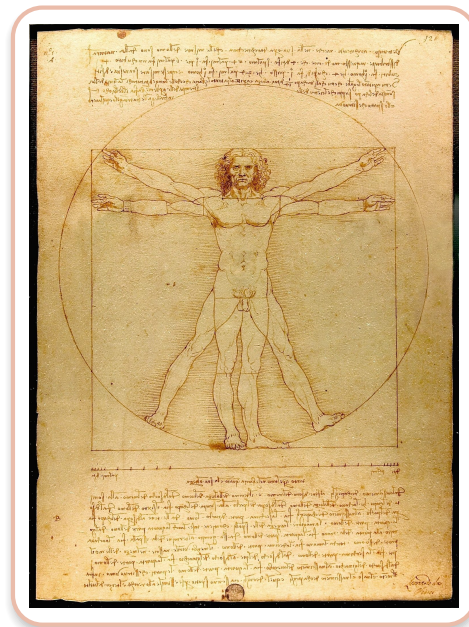
Audit at mid-year, not in April – the gaps you find **write your practice plan** while there is still time.

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 Composition should be decided

[1]

☐

A halfway through

B before the first real mark

C after finishing

D by the framer

2.2 Why is craft part of what a finished drawing is, not optional polish?

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Composition should be decided

[1]

☐

A halfway through

B before the first real mark

C after finishing

D by the framer

2.1 B

- plan it in thumbnails first

2.2 Why is craft part of what a finished drawing is, not optional polish?

[2]

2.2

- the finished work is judged as an object; damage/dirt in the photo lowers the score regardless of the drawing

Exercise 2.3

2.3 Give one example of treating scale as a decision.

[1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **composition-and-craft plan** for a finished piece.

(a) Draw three thumbnails, choose one, and state the scale you will work at and why. [3]

(b) List three craft steps to protect the final drawing. [1]

3.2

() Take one 'unresolved' drawing and either finish a weak corner or justify leaving it raw. [2]

Exercise 2.3

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Full solution 2.3

2.3

- choosing a large scale to make a subject commanding, or small to make it intimate

3.1

- three thumbnails and a reasoned choice; a stated scale decision; three real craft steps, e.g. fixative, flat storage, cover sheet

3.2

- the corner resolved or a clear justification given; the choice reads as deliberate