

Exercise walk-through

Composition and the Picture Plane ■ 3.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- use the **rule of thirds** 三分法 over dead centre
- design the **negative space** 负空间
- keep the **figure-ground** 图底 relationship readable
- choose the viewpoint on purpose

Method — Design the frame

What you crop out is as expressive as what you keep in. The rule of thirds places focal points off dead centre.

Method — Negative space

The empty shapes around a subject are shapes you designed, not leftovers.

Method — Viewpoint

Eye level is neutral; a low or high viewpoint makes an ordinary subject fresh.

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

The empty shapes around a subject are its

A positive space

B negative space

C liminal space

D wasted space

Solution 2.1

Method: Negative space

A positive space

B negative space



C liminal space

D wasted space

Worked steps

B. **negative space** is designed, not leftover.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Why is placing a subject on a third-line often stronger than dead centre?

Solution 2.2

Method: Design the frame

Worked steps

dead centre is static/predictable **B1**; a third-line placement creates a more dynamic, designed balance **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Name two things that can lead the viewer's eye to the focal point.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

any two of: lines/paths, value contrast, areas of detail **B1**.