AP DRAWING • EXERCISE SHEET

2.5 Tonal Composition and Notan

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS notan 明暗构成 • thumbnail sketches 小稿 • value 明度 • focal point 视觉焦点 • rendering 塑造

Objective

Design the light-dark pattern with **notan** 明暗构成 before any detail.

You must be able to:

- reduce a scene to 2-3 flat values
- test value plans with **thumbnail sketches** 小稿
- group values instead of scattering them
- build a clear value hierarchy

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Notan

Notan is the design of light and dark shapes. A drawing works or fails at thumbnail size, before any detail exists.

■ Group, don't scatter

Connected value shapes feel designed; scattered spots feel like noise.

■ Value hierarchy

One dominant value, one secondary, one accent — with the darkest dark against the lightest light at the focal point.

2 Practice

2.1 Notan is the design of [1]

- **A** colour harmonies
- **B** light and dark shapes
- **C** paper sizes
- **D** frame mouldings

2.2 Why test a composition as a 2-3 value thumbnail first? [2]

2.3 What is the difference between grouped and scattered values? [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **notan study set** for one scene.

(a) Draw four 6 cm thumbnails testing different 2-3 value plans. [3]

(b) Circle the strongest and write why its pattern reads. [1]

3.2

() Enlarge the chosen thumbnail into a small finished tonal drawing. [2]

Solutions

2.1 B. notan = the light-dark pattern.

2.2 if the pattern reads clearly at thumbnail size the composition is strong; it saves rendering a design that fails.

2.3 grouped/connected value shapes read as designed; scattered spots read as noise.

3.1 four distinct value plans; each uses only 2-3 flat values; a reasoned best choice about grouping/hierarchy.

3.2 keeps the thumbnail's value pattern; darkest dark meets lightest light at the focal point.