

# 2.6 Toned Grounds and Subtractive Drawing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 11 marks**

**KEY WORDS** subtractive 减法 • experimentation 实验 • subtractive drawing 减法素描  
• lift out 提白 • toned ground 有色底

## Objective

Draw both ways from a **toned ground** 有色底 using **subtractive** 减法 marks.

You must be able to:

- start from an even mid-tone ground
- **lift out** 提白 lights with an eraser
- use a **kneaded eraser** 可塑橡皮 for soft and crisp lights
- document the process as experimentation

## 1 Worked examples

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

■ **Toned ground**

An even charcoal or graphite tone (or grey paper) is a ready-made middle value — add only darks and white highlights.

■ **The eraser is a pencil**

Subtractive drawing pulls light out of dark. A kneaded eraser dabs soft lights and drags soft strokes; a hard eraser cuts crisp lights.

■ **Process as evidence**

A subtractive study is visible experimentation with materials — document it in your journal.

## 2 Practice

2.1 On a toned ground, the ground itself usually acts as the [1]

- **A** highlight
- **B** halftone
- **C** cast shadow
- **D** frame

2.2 What is subtractive drawing? Give one tool used for it. [2]

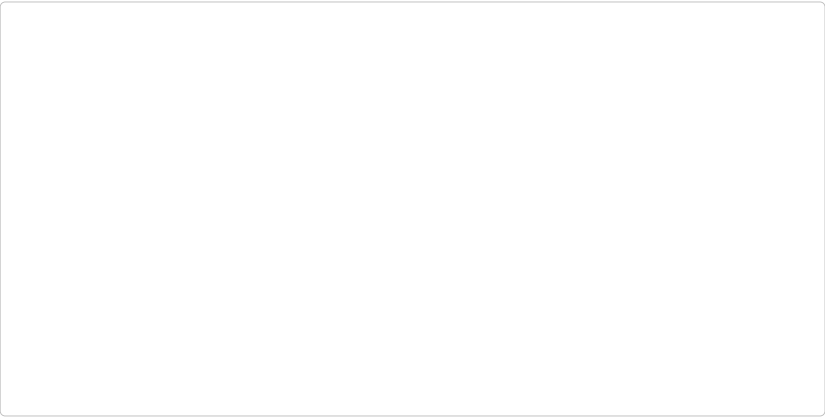
2.3 Why does a toned ground force value decisions early? [1]

## 3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **subtractive study** on a toned ground.

(a) Tone a page evenly, then draw a lit object using darks and lifted lights. [4]

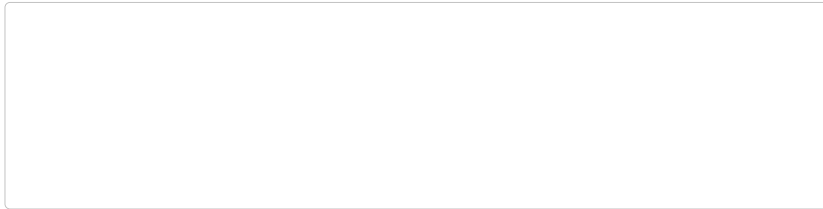
(b) Use both dabbed (soft) and cut (crisp) eraser lights. [1]



### 3.2

() Photograph or note the stages as process/experimentation evidence.

[2]



### Solutions

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**2.1 B.** the ground is the ready-made mid-value.

**2.2** drawing by removing material / lifting light out of dark; a kneaded or hard eraser.

**2.3** nothing can hide behind white paper — you must place darks and lights from the start.

**3.1** an even toned ground; form built with added darks and lifted lights; both soft and crisp eraser marks; the object reads as lit and solid.

**3.2** at least two documented stages; a note on what the material let you do.