Revision practice

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Visual Arts · HL

1 Visual analysis, context and comparison

- composition
- formal qualities

■ Question 1

What makes a comparison more than a list of colours?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Explaining how formal choices interact with function, meaning and context.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: Two portraits can use similar colours but position viewers differently through gaze, scale and setting. Formal comparison needs context as well as visible description.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

For original classroom studies, compare a centred composition with an off-centre figure and a larger area of empty space. Explain how balance and negative space change the viewer's attention. In assessment, use actual credited works and evidence about their contexts.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

These original studies do not fulfil the artist/artwork source requirements. / HL adds explicit connections to the student's own practice; a visual similarity alone is insufficient contextual analysis.

2 Material inquiry and iterative development

- iteration
- material investigation

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■ Question 1

What is the best process annotation?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

A specific account of what changed, what was learned and how it affected the next artistic decision.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A first print has unclear edges; the next uses less ink and stronger contrast. A process record can show learning that a final image conceals.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Make two original texture tests with one variable changed, such as pressure. Photograph and annotate them, then explain how the result informs a planned artwork. Connect a researched artist's strategy to a transformed decision in your own practice with a source credit.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

A portfolio is curated evidence, not a chronological dump or a finished-work gallery. / School checks the current art-making-form requirements and screen limits; the future inquiry portfolio has different criteria.

3 Resolved artworks and curatorial rationale

- curatorial rationale
- resolved artwork

■ Question 1

What should justify the exhibition order?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

How the arrangement supports relationships among the actual works and the intended audience experience.

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■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: Two works placed together can create a connection that neither creates alone. Curation is a creative decision supported by the actual works.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Arrange original studies in two ways: by material and by a developing theme. Compare how the sequence changes what a viewer notices. Choose the arrangement that best serves your intention and explain any work you leave out.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Current SL selects 4–7 works and HL 8–11; five resolved artworks belongs to the future 2027 model. / School supervises actual work and exhibition evidence; a written mock cannot replace it.

4 Comparative research and own practice

- negative space
- artistic influence

■ Question 1

What best shows a meaningful connection to research?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

A credited idea transformed through documented trials and evaluated in the student's own work.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: Researching another artist's use of empty space can prompt a new question in your own work. Copying a composition is not the same as developing an informed practice.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Try an original composition with more negative space, then compare it with the earlier arrangement. Explain what changes in emphasis and why this fits your inquiry. Credit the source artist while making the subject, materials and decisions your own.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)

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- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not claim influence without visual and reflective evidence. / The 2027 HL artist project replaces the current task structure, so keep the transition explicitly separate.