3.1 Resolved work and exhibition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS exhibition • curatorial rationale • resolved work • label • layout

Objective

Select and present **resolved works** as an exhibition: choose works that belong together, plan the space and order, write labels, and write a **curatorial rationale** that explains your choices.

You must be able to:

- select works that form a coherent body of work
- plan a layout for a space
- write clear exhibition labels
- write a curatorial rationale
- evaluate how the exhibition communicates

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Selecting

Works should **connect** (a theme, a question, a technique) but also **vary** (scale, media, mood). Remove a strong work if it does not belong.

Labels

Title, **medium**, **size** (height × width), **date**, and, if needed, one sentence of intention. Example: *Tide Line*, ink and tea on paper, 42 × 59.4 cm, 2026.

Layout

Hang works with the centre at about eye level (about 1.5 m). Leave even gaps; give a large or key work space to "breathe"; think about the visitor's path and what they see first.

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■ **Curatorial rationale**

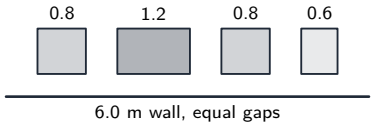
What the exhibition is about (the connecting idea) → why these works, in this order → how the space and display help the viewer → what you want the viewer to think or feel.

Worked example. "*Water Lines* brings together seven works on the coast where I grew up. The visitor meets the largest work first, a storm in ink, then moves to small, quiet studies of tide pools, so that the mood slows down as they walk."

2 Practice

2.1 Write a correct exhibition label for a charcoal drawing called *Harbour*, 50 cm high and 70 cm wide, made in 2026. [2]

2.2 A wall is 6.0 m long. Four works are 0.8, 1.2, 0.8 and 0.6 m wide, hung with **equal** gaps between them and at both ends. Calculate the gap. [3]



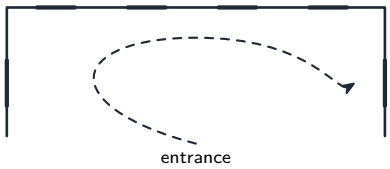
2.3 Give **two** reasons to include a work and **two** reasons to leave one out of an exhibition. [4]

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2.4 Plan the visitor's path through a small exhibition of **six** works: first work, order and the last work, with a reason for each choice. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Curatorial rationale.)* Write a curatorial rationale (about 250 words) for an exhibition of your own (real or planned): the connecting idea, the selection, the order and display, and the intended effect on viewers. [10]



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3.2 After the opening, viewers said the exhibition felt “crowded”. Suggest **two** changes and explain how each helps. [5]

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Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

title and medium: *Harbour*, charcoal on paper; size and date: 50 × 70 cm, 2026

2.2

works total 3.4 m; five gaps share $6.0 - 3.4 = 2.6$ m; each gap **0.52** m

2.3

include: it connects to the theme; adds variety of scale or media; leave out: it does not fit the idea; it repeats another work or is weaker in quality

2.4

a strong first work that sets the theme; order that builds, e.g. from loud to quiet; grouping of related works; space around a key work; last work that leaves a thought; reasons linked to the intention

3.1

Mark with the markbands: [top] precise subject vocabulary, clear analysis linked to context and purpose, well-chosen examples, reflection that shows how ideas developed, clear organization; [middle] relevant, some analysis and examples, some reflection; [bottom] mostly description, little analysis. Points that may be included: the connecting idea; selection explained; order and display; intended viewer response; links between works; clear, precise language; honest evaluation

3.2

remove one or two works so each gets more space; hang in groups with bigger gaps; vary heights less, use a clear eye-level line; better lighting on key works

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