

SMARTWIZ

GRADE11 VISUAL ARTS EXAM

MARKS: 100

TIME: 2 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

MARKS	
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Instructions for Learners:

- Read all instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your full name and student number clearly on the answer sheet/book.
- Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where necessary.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only a blue or black pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Do not talk to other learners during the exam.
- Any form of cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

This exam consists of five pages, including the cover page.

SECTION A: VISUAL LITERACY (50 MARKS)

QUESTION 1: Artwork Interpretation (25 Marks)

Study the image provided and answer the questions below.



1.1 What is the subject matter of this artwork? (2)

1.2 How does the artist use composition to guide your eye through the artwork? Refer to layout, balance, or focal points. (4)

1.3 Identify and explain the use of two visual elements (e.g., texture, shape, form, space). (4)

1.4 Suggest a possible message or meaning behind the artwork. Justify your response. (5)

1.5 Evaluate how successful the artist was in expressing emotion or narrative in this piece. Provide two reasons for your answer. (5)

1.6 Suggest a title for the artwork and explain why you chose it. (5)

QUESTION 2: Creative Thinking and Visual Literacy (25 Marks)

2.1 Create a rough concept for an artwork that represents the theme “Disconnection.” Describe what the artwork would look like and what medium you would use. (6)

2.2 Below is an abstract artwork. What makes a work “abstract”? Define the term and apply it to what you see. (6)



2.3 Match each **principle of design** with its correct description. (1 mark each = 5)

- a) Contrast
- b) Rhythm
- c) Emphasis
- d) Unity
- e) Movement

Descriptions:

- ____ Repetition of elements to create a visual tempo
- ____ The arrangement of opposite elements to create interest
- ____ Creating a sense of oneness or harmony in the composition
- ____ A part of the work that draws the viewer's attention first
- ____ The path the viewer's eye follows across the artwork

2.4 Identify one contemporary South African issue that could be explored through art. Explain how you would use imagery and symbolism to explore it. (8)

SECTION B: ART HISTORY & CONTEXTUAL STUDIES **(50 MARKS)**

QUESTION 3: South African Art (25 Marks)

3.1 Discuss the impact of **colonialism** on traditional African art in South Africa. How were cultural practices preserved or changed? (10)

3.2 Select **one South African artist** whose work deals with identity. Describe how this artist explores identity in one of their artworks. (15)

- Name of Artist: _____
- Title of Artwork: _____
- Description and Analysis: _____

QUESTION 4: International Art Movement (25 Marks)

4.1 Describe the characteristics of the **Surrealist movement**. What were these artists trying to achieve, and how did they go about it? (10)

4.2 Choose one well-known Surrealist artist (e.g., Salvador Dalí, René Magritte). Discuss one artwork by this artist and how it reflects the ideals of Surrealism. (10)

- Artist Name: _____
- Title of Artwork: _____
- Analysis:

4.3 Explain how **dreams and the subconscious** were central to Surrealist art. (5)



END OF PAPER

TOTAL : 100

MEMO

SECTION A: VISUAL LITERACY (50 MARKS)

Question 1: Artwork Interpretation (25 marks)

1.1 Learners should correctly identify the subject matter of the image, for example: a person, a social scene, a symbolic object, or a cultural ritual. Award 2 marks for an accurate and clear answer.

1.2 The learner should describe how the artist leads the viewer's eye through the artwork using composition. This could include elements like placement of the subject, use of leading lines, symmetry or asymmetry, and use of space. Up to 4 marks should be awarded for referring to layout and at least one other compositional device.

1.3 The learner must identify and explain any two visual elements (such as texture, shape, form, space, tone, or colour) and how they are used in the artwork. Allocate 2 marks per element, for a total of 4 marks.

1.4 A meaningful interpretation of the artwork's message should be accepted as long as it's plausible and supported. Learners should justify their ideas with references to visual clues. Award up to 5 marks for a well-explained and supported answer.

1.5 Learners must evaluate whether the artist successfully conveys an emotion or story. Award 3 marks for a justified opinion and 1 mark each for two visual features that support their view. Accept discussion of expression, symbolism, posture, setting, etc.

1.6 The suggested title must be appropriate and show creative and interpretive thinking. Award 2 marks for a relevant title and 3 marks for a strong explanation of why it suits the artwork.

Question 2: Creative Thinking and Visual Literacy (25 marks)

2.1 The learner must present a creative and thoughtful concept related to the theme "Disconnection." Award 3 marks for originality and clarity of idea, 2 marks for choice of medium, and 1 mark for reasoning.

2.2 The definition of "abstract" should explain that abstract art does not aim to realistically depict subjects but focuses on elements such as shape, colour, and form. Learners must apply this to the image by identifying abstract qualities like distortion, simplification, or symbolic use of shapes. Award up to 6 marks in total (3 for definition and 3 for visual analysis).

2.3 The correct matching of principles of design to their descriptions is as follows:

- Rhythm – repetition of elements to create a visual tempo
- Contrast – arrangement of opposite elements to create interest
- Unity – creating a sense of oneness or harmony
- Emphasis – the part that draws the viewer's eye
- Movement – path the eye follows through the composition

Award 1 mark per correct match, for a total of 5 marks.

2.4 The learner must identify one current South African issue (e.g., inequality, crime, identity, mental health, environmental issues) and describe how they would represent it through imagery and symbolism. Accept references to specific objects, colours, poses, or scenes. Award up to 8 marks based on depth of explanation, creativity, and relevance.

SECTION B: ART HISTORY & CONTEXTUAL STUDIES (50 MARKS)

Question 3: South African Art (25 marks)

3.1 Learners should describe how colonialism affected traditional African art forms. Responses may mention the disruption of cultural practices, loss or transformation of traditional art-making, and how communities preserved some of their heritage through performance, craft, or ritual. Award up to 10 marks for depth, relevance, and historical understanding.

3.2 The learner must choose a South African artist whose work explores identity (e.g., Mary Sibande, Zanele Muholi, Athi-Patra Ruga, Willie Bester). Award 2 marks for naming the artist, 2 for the artwork, and up to 11 marks for analysis. The discussion should cover how the artist uses style, symbols, media, or subject matter to explore personal, cultural, or political identity.

Question 4: International Art Movement – Surrealism (25 marks)

4.1 Learners should describe Surrealism as a movement that focused on the subconscious, dreams, irrational juxtapositions, and automatic drawing. Key traits include strange combinations of objects, dream logic, symbolic forms, and rejection of reason. Award up to 10 marks for describing key features and the movement's goals.

4.2 Accept any well-known Surrealist such as Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst, or René Magritte. The learner must name an artwork (e.g., Dalí's *The Persistence of Memory* or Magritte's *The Son of Man*) and discuss how it uses Surrealist techniques, such as juxtaposition, symbolism, or dream-like imagery. Award up to 10 marks: 2 for the artist, 2 for the artwork, and 6 for the detailed analysis.

4.3 Learners should explain that dreams and the subconscious were central to Surrealist art because artists believed the unconscious mind revealed deeper truths and creativity. They may mention Freud's influence or methods like automatic drawing. Award up to 5 marks for a well-informed explanation.

Marking Notes:

- Accept multiple interpretations if well-justified and visually supported.
- Reward originality and insight, especially in creative and open-ended questions.
- Use professional judgment for partially correct answers.

- Grammar/spelling errors should not be penalised unless they affect meaning.

TOTAL : 100



MEMO

SECTION A: VISUAL LITERACY (50 MARKS)

Question 1: Artwork Interpretation (25 Marks)

1.1 The learner should clearly describe the **subject matter** — for example, a portrait, a community scene, symbolic imagery, or a historical reference. Full marks (2) are awarded for an accurate and visually supported answer.

1.2 A full answer should explain how **composition** guides the eye using techniques like leading lines, focal points, directional flow, use of negative space, or symmetry. Award 1 mark for each valid observation up to a total of 4 marks.

1.3 Learners must identify **two visual elements**, such as shape, form, space, texture, or tone. They should describe how these are used to build meaning or structure in the work. Give 2 marks per element with explanation (total of 4).

1.4 For this question, accept any reasonable **interpretation of the artwork's message** as long as it is supported with visual evidence — e.g., the work expresses isolation, celebration, protest, or identity. Award full marks (5) for insight, originality, and relevant support.

1.5 Learners should **evaluate emotional or narrative success**, such as how the artist's use of expression, body language, composition, or setting helps to tell a story or create mood. Award 3 marks for analysis and 2 marks for visual evidence.

1.6 The learner should give a **creative and relevant title** that reflects the subject or theme. Two marks for a suitable title and three for a thoughtful justification, linking it to symbols, mood, or message in the image.

Question 2: Creative Thinking and Visual Literacy (25 Marks)

2.1 The learner must present a personal and creative concept related to the theme **“Disconnection.”** It could be social, emotional, or technological. Award 3 marks for concept clarity, 2 marks for choice of medium (e.g., photography, oil paint, digital collage), and 1 mark for reasoning.

2.2 A correct definition of **abstract art** should mention that it doesn't aim to depict reality directly but uses forms, colours, and lines in non-representational ways. Learners should apply this to the provided image. Award 3 marks for the definition and 3 for analysis of the artwork's abstract features.

2.3 Correct matching of principles of design:

- Rhythm = repetition of elements to create a visual tempo
- Contrast = arrangement of opposites to add interest
- Unity = harmony or cohesion in a composition
- Emphasis = a focal point or area of interest
- Movement = the visual path the viewer's eye follows

Award 1 mark for each correct match (total of 5 marks).

2.4 Learners must identify a **contemporary South African issue** (e.g., crime, gender-based violence, inequality, water shortage) and describe how they would depict it using **imagery and symbolism**. Expect reference to colours, poses, objects, facial expressions, and textures. Award full marks (8) for a creative, socially relevant, and well-explained concept.

SECTION B: ART HISTORY & CONTEXTUAL STUDIES (50 MARKS)

Question 3: South African Art (25 Marks)

3.1 The learner must explain how **colonialism disrupted traditional art practices** — such as loss of autonomy, suppression of rituals, or commercialization of cultural objects. At the same time, they may mention how art was preserved through oral history, adapted motifs, or in resistance art. Award up to 10 marks for depth, clarity, and historical awareness.

3.2 Learners must choose a **South African artist who explores identity**, such as Mary Sibande, Zanele Muholi, Athi-Patra Ruga, or Willie Bester. Award 2 marks for naming the artist, 2 for naming a specific artwork, and 11 marks for a thoughtful description that includes use of media, message, symbolism, and cultural context. Strong answers will show how identity is explored through race, gender, culture, or memory.

Question 4: International Art Movement – Surrealism (25 Marks)

4.1 Learners must describe **Surrealism** as an art movement focused on expressing the subconscious, often through dreamlike imagery, strange juxtapositions, and irrational scenes. Mentioning automatic drawing, influence of Freud, and rejection of realism is appropriate. Award up to 10 marks for detail and terminology.

4.2 Accept well-known Surrealist artists such as **Salvador Dalí, René Magritte, or Max Ernst**. Learners must identify one artwork (e.g., *The Persistence of Memory*, *The Son of Man*) and explain how it reflects Surrealist themes such as time, dreams, fantasy, or the unconscious mind. Award 2 marks for artist, 2 for artwork, and 6 for a detailed, accurate analysis.

4.3 Learners must explain how **dreams and the unconscious** were central to Surrealism. They should mention that Surrealists aimed to tap into hidden thoughts or irrational images, often drawing inspiration from psychoanalysis. Award full marks (5) for a coherent explanation.

TOTAL : 100