

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: Analysis of Visual Source (25 Marks)

Study the image below and answer the questions.



1.1 What is happening in the artwork? Briefly describe the scene or subject matter. (2)

1.2 Identify and describe the use of **space** and **form** in the artwork. (4)

1.3 What type of mood is created in this artwork? Refer to **colour** and **composition** in your answer. (4)

1.4 How does the artist create a sense of **depth** or **perspective**? Mention at least two techniques. (4)

1.5 Choose one of the following art elements: **line**, **texture**, or **tone**. Explain how the artist uses it effectively. (3)

1.6 Suggest an alternative title for the artwork and motivate your choice. (4)

1.7 Does this artwork tell a story? Justify your answer with reference to at least two visual clues. (4)

QUESTION 2: Design Principles and Symbolism (25 Marks)

2.1 Match the design principle to its description. Write the letter of the correct match next to the number. (5)

1. Balance
2. Proportion
3. Variety
4. Harmony
5. Emphasis

- A. A pleasing arrangement where all parts relate to each other
- B. When one part of the artwork stands out the most
- C. Equal visual weight in different areas of the composition
- D. Differences in elements that add interest
- E. Size relationships between parts of a whole

Answers:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

2.2 Create a concept sketch for a symbolic artwork based on the theme: "**Transformation.**" Describe the symbols you would use and what they represent. (6)

2.3 Look at the following image of a sculpture.



What materials do you think were used in this artwork? (2)

- Why do you think the artist chose these materials? (3)

2.4 Explain the difference between **realistic** and **stylised** art. Use an example of each. (4)

SECTION B: ART HISTORY AND THEORY (50 MARKS)

QUESTION 3: South African Art and Identity (25 Marks)

3.1 Choose one South African artist who explores **social identity or heritage** in their work. Name the artist, one of their artworks, and explain how the work reflects South African identity. (10)

- Artist: _____
- Artwork: _____
- Explanation: _____

3.2 Discuss the influence of **urban culture or tradition** in South African art. You may refer to mural art, township art, or street fashion. (10)

3.3 In your opinion, why is it important for artists to address social issues in their work? (5)

QUESTION 4: International Movements and Context (25 Marks)

4.1 Write a short paragraph explaining the goals and characteristics of the **Pop Art movement**. Mention at least two artists. (10)

4.2 Compare a traditional painting (e.g., from the Renaissance) with a modern work from the 20th century. Mention the difference in subject matter, technique, and purpose. (10)

4.3 Choose an international artist who influenced you. Briefly explain what you admire about their work.
(5)

- Artist: _____
- Your thoughts:



END OF PAPER

TOTAL : 100

MEMO

SECTION A: VISUAL LITERACY (50 MARKS)

QUESTION 1: Analysis of Visual Source (25 marks)

1.1 The learner should identify the main subject or event in the artwork — for example, a social gathering, a portrait, or an environmental scene. Full marks (2) require a clear and accurate description.

1.2 For space, learners should mention how the artist uses positive and negative space to balance the composition or create a focal area. For form, they may discuss the three-dimensional appearance of objects or figures, such as rounded shapes or volume. Award 2 marks each for a detailed explanation of space and form.

1.3 Mood could be described as calm, tense, joyful, mysterious, etc. Learners must link this to colour choices (e.g., warm colours create warmth or anger; cool colours create calmness) and compositional techniques (e.g., diagonal lines create energy, central placement creates focus). Award 4 marks for well-supported responses.

1.4 Techniques creating depth/perspective might include overlapping elements, diminishing size of objects, linear perspective, use of foreground/middle ground/background, or atmospheric perspective (colour fading). Award 2 marks per valid technique.

1.5 For line, texture, or tone, learners should describe one of these elements: e.g., the use of rough lines to create texture or shading (tone) to suggest volume or mood. Award 3 marks for an insightful explanation.

1.6 Alternative title must relate logically to the artwork's subject or mood. For example, if the artwork shows struggle, a title like "Breaking Free" could work, with motivation referencing visual clues. Full marks (4) for relevance and explanation.

1.7 The artwork may or may not tell a story. If yes, learners should identify visual clues such as sequential action, symbolic objects, or expressive faces to support their view. Award 4 marks for justification.

QUESTION 2: Design Principles and Symbolism (25 marks)

2.1 Correct matches:

1 - C (Balance), 2 - E (Proportion), 3 - D (Variety), 4 - A (Harmony), 5 - B (Emphasis).

Award 1 mark per correct answer (5 marks).

2.2 The concept sketch should include a clear idea of "Transformation" — e.g., a butterfly emerging, a person changing, or a decaying object renewing. Symbols might include metamorphosis, growth, change of seasons, etc. Award 6 marks for creativity, clarity, and symbolism explanation.

2.3 Materials could include metal, wood, clay, fabric, recycled objects, or mixed media. Award 2 marks for a reasonable guess.

Learners should explain why these materials suit the sculpture — for example, durability, texture, cultural relevance, or meaning in using recycled materials. Award 3 marks for a thoughtful explanation.

2.4 Realistic art attempts to depict subjects exactly as they appear in real life, with natural proportions, shading, and perspective (e.g., Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*). Stylised art simplifies or exaggerates forms and shapes, often for decorative or symbolic effect (e.g., African masks, cartoons). Award 4 marks for clear, distinct explanation with examples.

SECTION B: ART HISTORY AND THEORY (50 MARKS)

QUESTION 3: South African Art and Identity (25 marks)

3.1 The learner names a South African artist (e.g., Mary Sibande, Zanele Muholi, William Kentridge) and artwork (e.g., *Sophie*, *Faces and Phases* series, *Felix in Exile*). Award 2 marks for naming artist and artwork.

The explanation should describe how the artwork expresses identity through medium, subject, cultural symbols, or political commentary. Award up to 8 marks for detailed analysis linking to South African heritage or social issues.

3.2 Responses should cover the influence of urban culture or tradition on South African art forms such as mural art, graffiti, fashion, beadwork, or township art. Learners may mention how these reflect community, resistance, social messages, or cultural pride. Award 10 marks for relevant and detailed discussion.

3.3 Learners should argue that addressing social issues in art raises awareness, preserves history, provokes thought, or encourages change. Award 5 marks for clear and thoughtful answers.

QUESTION 4: International Movements and Context (25 marks)

4.1 Pop Art is a movement that emerged in the 1950s–60s, focusing on popular culture, mass media, consumerism, and everyday objects. Artists like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein used bright colours, repetition, and commercial imagery. Award 10 marks for clear explanation and naming at least two artists.

4.2 The comparison should note that Renaissance art focuses on religious/mythological subjects, naturalistic technique, and ideal beauty, while modern 20th-century art is more experimental, abstract, or conceptual, often addressing social issues or expressing personal feelings. Award 10 marks for detailed, clear comparisons.

4.3 Learners may choose an artist (e.g., Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Yayoi Kusama) and explain admiration based on style, message, innovation, or emotional impact. Award 5 marks for a personal, clear explanation.

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

MYST PATHWORKS